

Northern Border Threat ■ Invasive Species ■ The Paul Tibbets Story

# THE AMERICAN Legion

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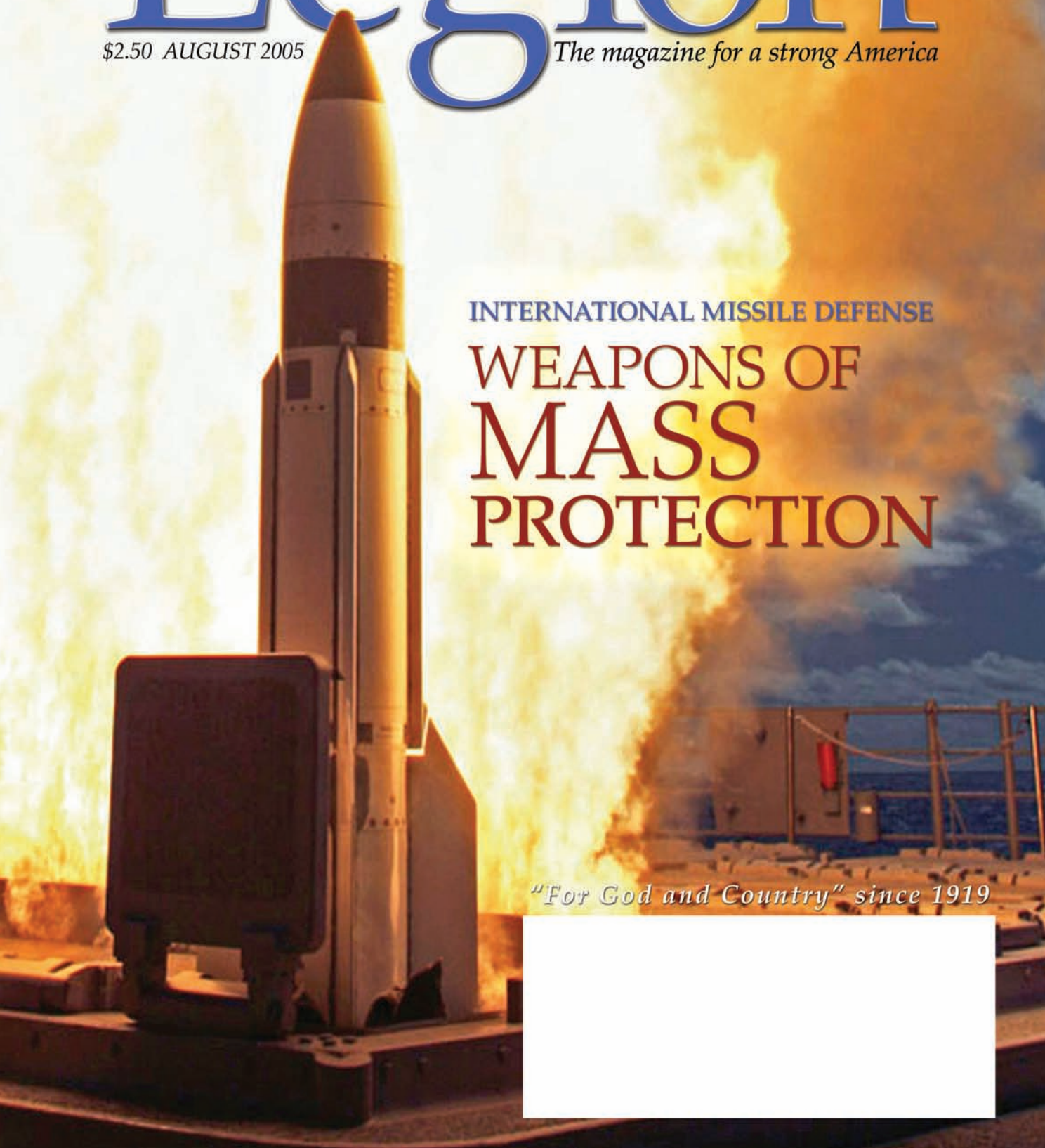
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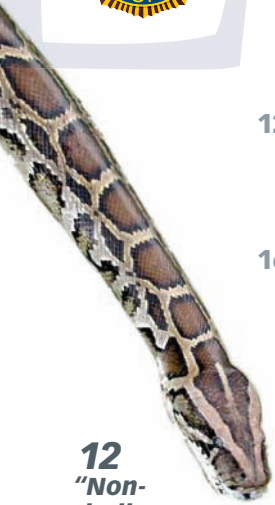




# Legion

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The American Legion Magazine, a leader among national general-interest publications, is published monthly by The American Legion for its 2.7 million members. These wartime veterans, working through 15,000 community-level posts, dedicate themselves to God and Country and traditional American values; strong national security; adequate and compassionate care for veterans, their widows and orphans; community service; and the wholesome development of our nation's youth.

**22**  
**"Today, no fewer than 25 countries have – or are developing – missilery that can threaten U.S. territory or bases. Whatever form it takes, the time for missile defense has come."**



**Cover:** An SM-3 is launched from the Aegis cruiser USS Lake Erie CG 70 as part of a recent Ballistic Missile Defense System test to defeat a medium-range ballistic missile threat. The SM-3 successfully intercepted and collided with a target launched from Lauai, Hawaii, at a speed of 3.7 kilometers a second.

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## For the veteran

*The American Legion Magazine* has always been an excellent publication, but in all my years, I've never read a more outstanding issue than June '05. You hit it out of the ballpark. All five major articles were informative, giving both sides of the picture and, most of all, making one think. I have copied them and distributed them to friends in numerous veterans service organizations. Thank you, Commander Cadmus, for your leadership and for speaking out for the veteran.

— Robert Cutler, Clearwater, Fla.

## Your VA or theirs?

In his interview, Rep. Steve Buyer, R-Ind., talks about “doublespeak.” He certainly knows what it is, as I didn't get much as to his position. I think I understood that he doesn't want to fully fund the needs of VA but to continue incrementally funding concurrent receipt. His views on long-term care are vague regarding shifting more responsibility to the states, as he's “going to be a good listener on this one.” What does that mean? What's his position on using Medicare funds for VA reimbursement? I certainly couldn't tell from his reply. In fact, I couldn't really tell his position on any of the topics asked of him.

In complete contrast was the interview with Rep. Lane Evans, D-Ill. His position on VA funding is very clear and, I believe, reflects the views of most veterans and the population in general. He says Legionnaires should raise hell against what the administration is doing against veterans. That can only happen at the grassroots level. Write to your representatives in Congress and tell them what you think. It works.

— Earl L.B. Hamilton, Goodyear, Ariz.

Congratulations on an excellent piece. I was impressed by the balance and by an apparent openness not always seen with

politicians. But having just completed a 13-month tour within VA substituting as a mental-health professional for an Army Reserve major called up to Iraq, I do have some comments.

First, it is important that we stand in the needy veterans' shoes as we think about VA and its programs. While I can get in to see the best doctors in the world within a few miles and fewer hours of the time I decide I need to go, my fellow veterans who choose VA services must drive many miles and wait incredible periods of time for their services. To top it off, those services are usually delivered within very limited hours by too few staff, who are too stressed trying to work in offices that, with some exceptions, don't begin to compare with a typical civilian doctor's office.

Second, I agree with National Commander Tom Cadmus that veterans deserve what has been promised to them. But let's be realistic. Congress has promised full services to veterans along with an impossible array of goodies like education, mental health and social-services programs. None of these promises are ever kept. Folks, it's all part of the political “let's-don't-and-say-we-did” game that serves to get people elected. So, we veterans can either stand in one line after another that are going wherever for another

50 years, or we can decide to pull the plug on the game.

It's time to empower veterans with a VA card that means as much and is just as flexible as the Blue Cross card in my wallet.

— Wendell Jennings,  
Grand Blanc, Mich.

Many elected officials are frightened at the thought of allowing VA facilities to file claims with Medicare and TRICARE. But it is time to repeal the old laws and allow VA to submit claims for services to retired military veterans.

We paid our Medicare taxes all the years we worked, and now we have to pay for the health care we get from VA, all because Medicare and TRICARE fall back on an antiquated law. Correcting the situation will provide VA with funds rightfully due it from Medicare and TRICARE.

Veterans older than 65 have earned their benefits, but more and more providers decline to accept and treat Medicare and TRICARE beneficiaries. That leaves retired veterans only one place to go: VA.

— John Rodenmayer,  
Reynoldsburg, Ohio

## 'Men in Black'

The article “Men in Black” (June) is great, the best I've read in our magazine. I've always said the Supreme Court did the most damage when it said burning our great flag is a statement. No way. It's an action and never should have been approved by the Court. It's arson, plain and simple. I challenge the Court by asking if it's all right to make a statement with a knife or a gun.

— Eylene James, Newaygo, Mich.

Mark Levin's ideas about the Supreme Court are refreshing. Self-interest groups should not



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Antacids may be used while taking NEXIUM. **Drug Interactions** Esomeprazole is extensively metabolized in the liver by CYP2C19 and CYP3A4. *In vitro* and *in vivo* studies have shown that esomeprazole is not likely to inhibit CYPs 1A2, 2A6, 2C9, 2D6, 2E1 and 3A4. No clinically relevant interactions with drugs metabolized by these CYP enzymes would be expected. Drug interaction studies have shown that esomeprazole does not have any clinically significant interactions with phenytoin, warfarin, quinidine, clarithromycin or amoxicillin. Post-marketing reports of changes in prothrombin measures have been received among patients on concomitant warfarin and esomeprazole therapy. Increases in INR and prothrombin time may lead to abnormal bleeding and even death. Patients treated with proton pump inhibitors and warfarin concomitantly may need to be monitored for increases in INR and prothrombin time. Esomeprazole may potentially interfere with CYP2C19, the major esomeprazole metabolizing enzyme. Coadministration of esomeprazole 30 mg and diazepam, a CYP2C19 substrate, resulted in a 45% decrease in clearance of diazepam. Increased plasma levels of diazepam were observed 12 hours after dosing and onwards. However, at that time, the plasma levels of diazepam were below the therapeutic interval, and thus this interaction is unlikely to be of clinical relevance. Coadministration of oral contraceptives, diazepam, phenytoin, or quinidine did not seem to change the pharmacokinetic profile of esomeprazole. Studies evaluating concomitant administration of esomeprazole and either naproxen (non-selective NSAID) or rofecoxib (COX-2 selective NSAID) did not identify any clinically relevant changes in the pharmacokinetic profiles of esomeprazole or these NSAIDs. Esomeprazole inhibits gastric acid secretion. Therefore, esomeprazole may interfere with the absorption of drugs where gastric pH is an important determinant of bioavailability (eg, ketoconazole, iron salts and digoxin). **Carcinogenesis, Mutagenesis, Impairment of Fertility** The carcinogenic potential of esomeprazole was assessed using omeprazole studies. In two 24-month oral carcinogenicity studies in rats, omeprazole at daily doses of 1.7, 3.4, 13.8, 44.0 and 140.8 mg/kg/day (about 0.7 to 57 times the human dose of 20 mg/day expressed on a body surface area basis) produced gastric ECL cell carcinoids in a dose-related manner in both male and female rats; the incidence of this effect was markedly higher in female rats, which had higher blood levels of omeprazole. Gastric carcinoids seldom occur in the untreated rat. In addition, ECL cell hyperplasia was present in all treated groups of both sexes. In one of these studies, female rats were treated with 13.8 mg omeprazole/kg/day (about 5.6 times the human dose on a body surface area basis) for 1 year, then followed for an additional year without the drug. No carcinoids were seen in these rats. An increased incidence of treatment-related ECL cell hyperplasia was observed at the end of 1 year (94% treated vs 10% controls). By the second year the difference between treated and control rats was much smaller (46% vs 26%) but still showed more hyperplasia in the treated group. Gastric adenocarcinoma was seen in one rat (2%). No similar tumor was seen in male or female rats treated for 2 years. For this strain of rat no similar tumor has been noted historically, but a finding involving only one tumor is difficult to interpret. A 78-week mouse carcinogenicity study of omeprazole did not show increased tumor occurrence, but the study was not conclusive. Esomeprazole was negative in the Ames mutation test, in the *in vivo* rat bone marrow cell chromosome aberration test, and the *in vivo* mouse micronucleus test. Esomeprazole, however, was positive in the *in vitro* human lymphocyte chromosome aberration test. Omeprazole was positive in the *in vitro* human lymphocyte chromosome aberration test, the *in vivo* mouse bone marrow cell chromosome aberration test, and the *in vivo* mouse micronucleus test. The potential effects of esomeprazole on fertility and reproductive performance were assessed using omeprazole studies. Omeprazole at oral doses up to 138 mg/kg/day in rats (about 56 times the human dose on a body surface area basis) was found to have no effect on reproductive performance of parental animals. **Pregnancy Teratogenic Effects.** *Pregnancy Category B* Teratology studies have been performed in rats at oral doses up to 280 mg/kg/day (about 57 times the human dose on a body surface area basis) and in rabbits at oral doses up to 86 mg/kg/day (about 35 times the human dose on a body surface area basis) and have revealed no evidence of impaired fertility or harm to the fetus due to esomeprazole. There are, however, no adequate and well-controlled studies in pregnant women. Because animal reproduction studies are not always predictive of human response, this drug should be used during pregnancy only if clearly needed. Teratology studies conducted with omeprazole in rats at oral doses up to 138 mg/kg/day (about 56 times the human dose on a body surface area basis) and in rabbits at doses up to 69 mg/kg/day (about 56 times the human dose on a body surface area basis) did not disclose any evidence for a teratogenic potential of omeprazole. In rabbits, omeprazole in a dose range of 6.9 to 69.1 mg/kg/day (about 5.5 to 56 times the human dose on a body surface area basis) produced dose-related increases in embryo-letality, fetal resorptions, and pregnancy disruptions. In rats, dose-related embryo/fetal toxicity and postnatal developmental toxicity were observed in offspring resulting from parents treated with omeprazole at 13.8 to 138.0 mg/kg/day (about 5.6 to 56 times the human dose on a body surface area basis). There are no adequate and well-controlled studies in pregnant women. Sporadic reports have been received of congenital abnormalities occurring in infants born to women who have received omeprazole during pregnancy. **Nursing Mothers** The excretion of esomeprazole in milk has not been studied. However, omeprazole concentrations have been measured in breast milk of a woman following oral administration of 20 mg. Because esomeprazole is likely to be excreted in human milk, because of the potential for serious adverse reactions in nursing infants from esomeprazole, and because of the potential for tumorigenicity shown for omeprazole in rat carcinogenicity studies, a decision should be made whether to discontinue nursing or to discontinue the drug, taking into account the importance of the drug to the mother. **Pediatric Use** Safety and effectiveness in pediatric patients have not been established. **Geriatric Use** Of the total number of patients who received NEXIUM in clinical trials, 1459 were 65 to 74 years of age and 354 patients were 75 years of age. **ADVERSE REACTIONS** The safety of NEXIUM was evaluated in over 15,000 patients (aged 18-84 years) in clinical trials worldwide including over 8,500 patients in the United States and over 6,500 patients in Europe and Canada. Over 2,900 patients were treated in long-term studies for up to 6-12 months. In general, NEXIUM was well tolerated in both short- and long-term clinical trials. The safety in the treatment of healing of erosive esophagitis was assessed in four randomized comparative clinical trials, which included 1,240 patients on NEXIUM 20 mg, 2,434 patients on NEXIUM 40 mg, and 3,008 patients on omeprazole 20 mg daily. The most frequently occurring adverse events (1%) in all three groups was headache (5.5, 5.0, and 3.8, respectively) and diarrhea (no difference among the three groups). Nausea, flatulence, abdominal pain, constipation, and dry mouth occurred at similar rates among patients taking NEXIUM or omeprazole. Additional adverse events that were reported as possibly or probably related to NEXIUM with an incidence < 1% are listed below by body system: **Body as a Whole:** abdomen enlarged, allergic reaction, asthenia, back pain, chest pain, chest pain substernal, facial edema, peripheral edema, hot flushes, fatigue, fever, flu-like disorder, generalized edema, leg edema, malaise, pain, rigors; **Cardiovascular:** flushing, hypertension, tachycardia; **Endocrine:** goiter; **Gastrointestinal:** bowel irregularity, constipation aggravated, dyspepsia, dysphagia, dysplasia GI, epigastric pain, eructation, esophageal disorder, frequent stools, gastroenteritis, GI hemorrhage, GI symptoms not otherwise specified, hiccup, melena, mouth disorder, pharynx disorder, rectal disorder, serum gastrin increased, tongue disorder, tongue edema, ulcerative stomatitis, vomiting; **Hearing:** earache, tinnitus; **Hematologic:** anemia, anemia hypochromic, cervical lymphadenopathy, epistaxis, leukocytosis, leukopenia, thrombocytopenia; **Hepatic:** bilirubinemia, hepatic function abnormal, SGOT increased, SGPT increased; **Metabolic/Nutritional:** glycosuria, hyperuricemia, hyponatremia, increased alkaline phosphatase, thirst, vitamin B12 deficiency, weight increase, weight decrease; **Musculoskeletal:** arthralgia, arthritis aggravated, arthralgia, cramps, fibromyalgia syndrome, hernia, polymyalgia rheumatica; **Nervous System/Psychiatric:** anorexia, apathy, appetite increased, confusion, depression aggravated, dizziness, hyperreflexia, nervousness, hypoesthesia, impotence, insomnia, migraine, migraine aggravated, paresthesia, sleep disorder, somnolence, tremor, vertigo, visual field defect; **Reproductive:** dysmenorrhea, menstrual disorder, vaginitis; **Respiratory:** asthma aggravated, coughing, dyspnea, larynx edema, pharyngitis, rhinitis, sinusitis; **Skin and Appendages:** acne, angioedema, dermatitis, pruritus, pruritus ani, rash, rash erythematous, rash maculopapular, skin inflammation, sweating increased, urticaria; **Special Senses:** otitis media, parosmia, taste loss, taste perversion; **Urogenital:** abnormal urine, albuminuria, cystitis, dysuria, fungal infection, hematuria, micturition frequency, moniliasis, genital moniliasis, polyuria; **Visual:** conjunctivitis, vision abnormal. Endoscopic findings that were reported as adverse events include: duodenitis, esophagitis, esophageal stricture, esophageal ulceration, esophageal varices, gastric ulcer, gastritis, hernia, benign polyps or nodules, Barrett's esophagus, and mucosal discoloration. Two placebo-controlled studies were conducted in 710 patients for the treatment of symptomatic gastroesophageal reflux disease. The most common adverse events that were reported as possibly or probably related to NEXIUM were diarrhea (4.3%), headache (3.8%), and abdominal pain (3.8%). Postmarketing Reports – There have been spontaneous reports of adverse events with postmarketing use of esomeprazole. These reports have included rare cases of anaphylactic reaction and myalgia, severe dermatologic reactions, including toxic epidermal necrolysis (TEN, some fatal), Stevens-Johnson syndrome, and erythema multiforme, and pancreatitis. Very rarely, hepatitis with or without jaundice has been reported. Other adverse events not observed with NEXIUM, but occurring with omeprazole can be found in the omeprazole package insert. **ADVERSE REACTIONS** section. **OVERDOSAGE** A single oral dose of esomeprazole at 510 mg/kg (about 103 times the human dose on a body surface area basis), was lethal to rats. The major signs of acute toxicity were reduced motor activity, changes in respiratory frequency, tremor, ataxia, and intermittent clonic convulsions. There have been some reports of overdose with esomeprazole. Reports have been received of overdose with omeprazole in humans. Doses ranged up to 2,400 mg (120 times the usual recommended clinical dose). Manifestations were variable, but included confusion, drowsiness, blurred vision, tachycardia, nausea, diaphoresis, flushing, headache, dry mouth, and other adverse reactions similar to those seen in normal clinical experience (see omeprazole package insert-**ADVERSE REACTIONS**). No specific antidote for esomeprazole is known. Since esomeprazole is extensively protein bound, it is not expected to be removed by dialysis. In the event of overdose, treatment should be symptomatic and supportive. As with the management of any overdose, the possibility of multiple drug ingestion should be considered. For current information on treatment of any drug overdose, a certified Regional Poison Control Center should be contacted. Telephone numbers are listed in the Physicians' Desk Reference (PDR) or local telephone book. **DOSE AND ADMINISTRATION** Please see full Prescribing Information for recommended adult dosages and dosage adjustments for **Special Populations** for NEXIUM.

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## vet voice

be permitted to use the Court to make or enforce “their” laws with no appropriate counteracting response from the other two branches of federal government. It takes longer to get the voice of the people using the combined counter-balancing power of all three branches of government, but it is the voice of the people that should prevail in our government of the people, by the people, for the people – not merely the voice of a few men and women in black.

– Ewel Vaughan, Seiling, Okla.

Mark Levin ignores the fact that the judges he attacks were selected by our presidents with the advice and approval of the Senate, all of whom we the people elect to make those appointments. So the executive and legislative branches control the judiciary. This is the system of checks and balances that makes our Constitution the “miracle of Philadelphia.”

He also attacks the early decision in *Marbury v. Madison* that the Supreme Court can determine if laws passed by Congress are constitutional. Now either the Court can determine constitutionality or Congress can run rampant over the rights of the people as set forth in the Constitution. And if the people disagreed with the *Madison* decision, they could have amended the Constitution to annul it. They haven't in more than 200 years.

So we see the courts have served the people well. We may disagree with their decisions sometimes. I do. But I know that the president and senators I choose can appoint judges to correct those decisions. Our Consti-

tution works just fine, not withstanding the attacks of Levin. It even protects Levin's right to attack it.

– Leo McDonnell, Duluth, Minn.

Shame on The American Legion for catering to the radical right wing. Mark Levin obviously wishes to destroy the checks and balances built into our government. While none of us agree with every single decision of any supreme court, the fact that they don't always agree with us means that the system is working.

– Leonard West, Rochester, N.H.

### Don't get LOST

As I read the articles about the Law of the Sea Treaty (June), I could only feel alarm. Sadly, most Americans do not see this as a sovereignty issue but simple free-trade principles – if they see it at all.

I remember well the debates that took place during the passage and ratification of similar treaties, such as NAFTA and GATT, which empowered the World Trade Organization. I was a voice in opposition because of the sovereignty issue. At the time many of my colleagues and friends privately teased me about being overly concerned or downright paranoid.

I live in Utah, one of only two states to ban any form of gambling. Imagine my surprise to read the news in March when the WTO ruled against the United States in a gambling complaint raised by the small Caribbean nation of Antigua. It claimed laws such as Utah's are a violation of NAFTA and GATT. Sadly, the WTO ruled against

the United States, and now Utah faces the prospects of doing something we never wanted. Should Antigua and the WTO now determine the nature of Utah's laws in this area?

Once this hit the news, I had many calls from former colleagues letting me know I was right and they had been wrong. It's not about who is right and wrong; it's about what is right and wrong. Many have learned a lesson in Utah, the hard way.

– Rep. Matt Throckmorton, retired,  
Utah House of Representatives,  
Springville, Utah

Just as our states surrendered some of their power to the federal government so we could have this strong and unified nation, nations will eventually have to do the same to create a peaceful world. But a close reading of LOST shows how this idea can go wrong – how a few can steal power from many, possibly for personal gain.

Any treaty or agreement must be mutually advantageous and mutually agreed upon to work.

– Warren Abrams, Milner, Ga.

### A bit snippy

That was a cute article about Betsy Ross folding a piece of paper and cutting a five-pointed star with a single snip (Rapid Fire, June). I suggest this is some tale rather than fact.

I challenge anyone to submit directions for this folding process for a symmetrical five-pointed star, unless the star is already on the paper or drawn before folding.

Even drawing a five-pointed star without a ruler or protractor is quite a feat. Try it! After

you've figured out how to fold the paper star so you can cut it out with one snip, try doing it with unstarched cloth.

– John Mace, Malone, N.Y.

**Editor's note:** *Courtesy the Betsy Ross House in Philadelphia, directions for cutting a five-pointed star are posted online at [www.ushistory.org/betsy/flagstar.html](http://www.ushistory.org/betsy/flagstar.html).*

### 'The Homecoming'

I read "The Homecoming," and all the profiled soldiers must be able to make a living. Will they receive DoD disability retirement, or will they become part of VA? How much yearly compensation will they receive and under what program? And what are the advantages and disadvantages of DoD disability retirement vs. VA?

The magazine did a great job profiling these soldiers but should publish quarterly or semiannual updates on them. We will then be able to make informed judgments as to how well combat-injured soldiers are compensated.

– Edward Terrell, Raleigh, N.C.

I am disturbed by the statement on the first page of the May issue: "Young, wounded soldiers grow into older, disabled veterans whose unique needs are the moral responsibility of a nation that made them so."

My opinion does not place our beloved nation as the entity that "made them so."

Our enemies who use all tactics to hurt or destroy our democracy are the culprits, not our nation.

– Robert Jacoby, Churchville, Pa.

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### THE AMERICAN LEGION MAGAZINE WELCOMES YOUR OPINIONS

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# CARES: Success depends on funding

A cleverly chosen acronym entered the VA vocabulary about five years ago. The term was CARES, which stands for Capital Asset Realignment for Enhanced Services – a mouthful of government words that mean different things to different people across the country. To veterans in Waco, Texas, and Livermore, Calif., Pittsburgh and Chicago, CARES stands for deep concern that a needed VA hospital will close. To veterans in Denver, Orlando and Las Vegas, it means new medical centers loom on the horizon. To doctors, nurses and other staff at many VA facilities, CARES means new missions, transfers or different jobs. CARES is also the promise of more than 150 new clinics nationwide. CARES is a tall, \$6 billion order. It has been accurately described as the most monumental overhaul of the VA health-care system since the troops came home from World War II. Nearly 5,000 buildings on about 15,000 acres of federal land from Alaska to Puerto Rico were scrutinized after a 1999 government report calculated VA was spending \$1 million a day on under-used property. CARES was heralded as the solution. The American Legion swiftly mobilized veterans at every level to ensure cost cutting did not become a higher priority than veteran care.

Chicago was the testing ground. There, in 2001, veterans quickly learned the stakes. Initial plans called for the closure of the downtown Lakeside VA Medical Center without adequate provisions for patients to receive care elsewhere. Outraged veterans made their feelings known. The plan was rejected. Today, under a different plan, a \$99 million bed tower is under construction at the facility designated to absorb Lakeside's patients. However, Lakeside's hospital services ended before ground was broken on the new bed tower. A lesson was thus learned as CARES went national, a lesson the Legion often reiterated: no facility should close until arrangements are made for patient care elsewhere.

When delivering the final CARES decision in 2004, then-VA Secretary Anthony Principi acknowledged our concern in promising that "VA will not interrupt services at current facilities until we can provide care at an alternate site of comparable quality. That's just an inviolate principle."

The Legion must continue to hold VA to the former secretary's pledge. In order for that to happen, Congress must deliver more than \$5 billion in funding for CARES construction over the next four years. Washington has made no secret that VA health care's discretionary budget stands broadside in the crosshairs for fiscal 2006. And CARES is in the line of fire.

That's what's wrong with discretionary funding of VA health care. Current budget plans squeeze VA health care to a point where it can't keep up with normal operating costs, let alone CARES. Thanks to a broken funding formula, choices will be made. Veterans everywhere now must do as their comrades in Chicago did: step up, be heard, engage VA, include Congress, alert the public and media. We must be clear that the Legion expects CARES to be funded fully, separately and on time. The Legion also expects seamless transitions where changes are coming, and VA's normal annual construction needs must not go unmet. Above all, the Legion expects VA to keep patient care its highest calling. To do all that, we need a new way of paying for VA health care. If mandatory funding for VA health care doesn't happen, veterans can bet they haven't seen the last clever acronym to overhaul the system.

*Thomas P. Cadmus*



James V. Carroll

National Commander  
Thomas P. Cadmus

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### **CARES ON THE WEB**

The Web site [www.va.gov/cares](http://www.va.gov/cares) has information on the current state of the CARES process, particularly in 18 affected communities where local advisory panels have been meeting this year.



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# Overhaul of U.S. bankruptcy laws



## SUPPORT

**Sen. Orrin Hatch,  
R-Utah**

■ Hatch is the senior Republican on the Senate's Finance and Judiciary committees.



## OPPOSE

**Sen. Edward M. Kennedy,  
D-Mass.**

■ Kennedy is the ranking Democrat on the Senate Health, Education, Labor and Pensions Committee.

This April, with the stroke of a pen, President Bush put an end to 30 years of abuse and irresponsibility. The landmark bankruptcy reform he signed into law brings personal responsibility and accountability back into our defunct system.

This law had broad, bipartisan support because the underlying idea is so simple: if you can afford to pay back your debts, you should pay. Let me be clear: this law does not hurt veterans or children. It does not let millionaires game the system. And not one of the 74 senators or 302 House members who voted for reform believe honest debtors should be harmed by circumstances beyond their control.

Veterans and all Americans pay a hidden bankruptcy tax – up to \$500 a year – to pay for the bad debt of others. Well, no more. By removing opportunities for fraud, this law ensures that people do not use self-settled trusts, homestead laws and other gimmicks that add to this bankruptcy tax.

This law not only targets the bad guys; it protects those who have unintentionally gone deep in debt. Along with enacting a “Debtor’s Bill of Rights,” the law boosts protections for veterans and makes it easier to collect child support from bankruptcy filers.

The key is a means test distinguishing people who can pay back some of their debts and those who cannot. The test generously allows for in-home care, clothing, food, education, housing and other necessities. It also protects debtors from unforeseen circumstances, such as military deployment or catastrophic medical conditions.

It is estimated that 90 percent of debtors will not be affected by these changes to the law. So who is left? Those who can afford to pay at least some of their debts – and this law makes sure they do.

The bankruptcy legislation ignores the concerns of average families, veterans, single mothers and those with soaring medical bills, all while pandering to money lenders.

Long-standing bankruptcy laws have always been intended to give hard-pressed families and businesses a second chance.

If you face a mountain of medical bills after a serious illness, if you’ve been divorced and no longer have two incomes to support your family, if your job is outsourced to another country, or if your business

failed because you were serving your country overseas, you should have an opportunity to rebuild your life.

Supporters claim those typically filing for bankruptcy are irresponsible spendthrifts and deadbeats bent on evading repayment of their debts. But the facts prove otherwise. With the soaring cost of health care, nearly half of all bankruptcies today are caused by debts resulting from illnesses. More than 200,000 women entitled to alimony or child support are forced into bankruptcy each year because their payments aren’t received. Six thousand military families are on food stamps, and 40 percent of reservists report a loss of income when called to duty; in too many cases, this leads to extraordinary financial stress for their families. By denying bankruptcy protection, we turn our backs on the very men, women and children bankruptcy laws are intended to help.

The bankruptcy bill is a bonanza for the credit-card industry and a nightmare for the poor and weak, and it didn’t deserve to pass. Millions of Americans who fall into debt because of circumstances beyond their control deserve the second chance that our nation’s bankruptcy laws are intended to provide.

## THE HEART OF THE ISSUE

***The new U.S. bankruptcy law that passed in Congress last April left critics to argue that low-income working people and those with high medical bills will be hurt most. Supporters say the law is needed to eliminate an invisible bankruptcy tax.***

## CONTACT YOUR LEADERS

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# They're Heeeere

*Non-native species are eating up U.S. ecosystems, costing billions.*

**BY LEE BUTCHER**

America is waging a little-publicized war against aliens that have been invading our country for more than 100 years. Annually, they cause at least \$138 billion in damages, and Americans spend another \$21.2 billion to control or, better yet, kill them.

The aliens aren't extraterrestrial. They come from various parts of our own world. Some arrive in the ballast water of ships or in contaminated cargo; others were freed by people who grew tired of caring for them as pets.

Non-indigenous species, or NIS, have gained footholds in every state and territory, threatening ecosystems and causing the extinction of some native species. Included among them are aquatic weeds, fish, mussels, insects and just about everything that creeps, crawls, slithers, swims or bores.

The damage to the environment is shocking. "If we had to assign values to species extinctions and losses in biodiversity, ecosystem, services and aesthetics," says a Cornell University report, "the cost would undoubtedly be several times higher than \$138 billion a year." NIS are responsible for the deaths of thousands of migrating birds and destruction of habitat for several native species. They pose serious threats to sport and commercial fishing, clog machinery at power plants and municipal water supplies, tear down sea walls, and create reservoirs for botulism and cholera, both potentially fatal to humans.



AP

## **Snakefish**

In 2002, a small aquarium fish called the northern snakehead, a native of China, was found in a small pond in Crofton, Md. It can live for days out of water, causing damage if it gains a foothold. Introduced through release from home aquariums, the snakefish has since been found in other warm, fresh U.S. waters but is not yet established. It can't survive in cool salt water.

An estimated 5,000 NIS in the United States are trying to take over. "They're coming in so fast we can't keep track of them," says Michael Hoff, Nuisance Aquatic Species coordinator for the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. Half, according to some estimates, have not even been identified yet.

NIS have overrun some areas, causing disastrous changes in ecosystems from the Great Lakes to the Pacific Northwest. Nearly 42 percent of native plants and animals on the endangered species list are there because they are threatened by NIS.

Chesapeake Bay, San Francisco Bay, the Great Lakes and other North American marine areas are being attacked. Some scientists say it may already be too late to save the Great Lakes, the greatest freshwater system in the world. Millions of Americans and





### Alligators vs. Burmese pythons

In February 2004, Everglades tourists saw a Burmese python wrap itself around an alligator, which then grabbed the snake in its mouth and swam off. And in January 2003, tourists watched a similar battle at the park's Anhinga Trail. After 24 hours in the alligator's jaws, the python managed to wriggle free.

In the past five years, the United States has reportedly imported more than 144,000 Burmese pythons from Southeast Asia. Hatchlings sell for as little as \$20. But once they grow – often up to 15 feet – some are dumped in the Everglades by their owners. Since the mid-1990s, park rangers have captured or killed 68.

Canadians rely on the Lakes for drinking water, recreation, fishing and their economic livelihoods. Commercial and recreational fishing in the Great Lakes is a \$6.5-billion-a-year business, according to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

Many NIS are introduced in the cargo or ballast water of ships arriving from foreign ports. When ships load or unload, they take on millions of gallons of water to evenly distribute the ship's weight. This water is frequently contaminated by NIS. After unloading in the United States, ballast water is pumped out, releasing NIS into environments where they have few, if any, natural enemies.

Tougher controls have been established to regulate ballast dumping at U.S. ports. Now, ballast must be ejected at least 200 miles offshore and in water a minimum of 200 feet deep. Captains who don't keep accurate dumping logs can receive hefty fines. These controls have done little to prevent the introduction of new NIS.

"A new species is identified about every seven months," says Anthony Ricciardi, invasive species biologist at McGill

University in Montreal. James Carlton, director of the Maritime Studies Program of Williams College in Mystic, Conn., says the Great Lakes have become an "accidental zoo" and that the ecosystem has been permanently modified.

Five of the greatest threats to the Lakes are zebra and quagga mussels, round goby, the ruffe – a small, spiny fish from Europe – and sea lampreys. Together they have decimated the sturgeons, small-mouth bass, lake trout, walleye and commercial fish. They also have punched holes in the food chain, eliminated native species and left the ecosystem in tatters. Scores of U.S. and Canadian organizations, including the Department of Defense and U.S. Coast Guard, are battling to save the Great Lakes ecosystem.

Quagga and zebra mussels thrive on any surface and even grow atop native mussels. They clog industrial water pipes and water purification systems. Electrical generating plants alone spend more than \$1 million annually to fix damage caused by the mussels; the total damage these NIS cause exceeds \$1 billion a year. There is no price tag



U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service

### Round goby

A native of Eurasia, the round goby was first discovered in Michigan's St. Clair River in 1990. It probably arrived in a ship's ballast water. Since then, the goby has multiplied in the Great Lakes, feeding on bottom-dwelling fishes, snails, mussels and aquatic insects. Native fish species have declined, particularly sculpins, making the goby a threat to the region's sport and commercial fisheries. The Army Corps of Engineers is constructing an underwater electric barrier in the Chicago Sanitary and Ship Canal to prevent the goby from spreading into the Mississippi River drainage.

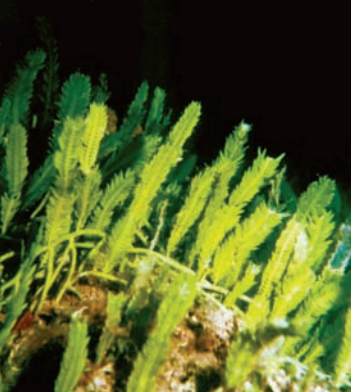
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U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service

### Sea lamprey

The sea lamprey is generally marine but travels freshwater rivers to spawn along the Atlantic Coast from Labrador to the Gulf of Mexico. It may have entered Lake Ontario by migrating through the Erie Canal. Adult lampreys attack and feed on other fishes. Regional fisheries suffer, along with tourism and supporting businesses. International control programs in the Great Lakes drainage cost upwards of \$15 million.



Rachel Woodfield, Merkel & Associates, Inc.

### Killer algae

*Caulerpa taxifolia*, also known as "killer algae," was discovered in the Mediterranean Sea off Monaco in 1984.

By 1997, it blanketed more than 11,000 sea acres and had severely impacted coastal ecosystems of Croatia, France, Italy, Monaco and Spain. Vast areas of the sea where the algae had taken over were almost lifeless.

In 1999, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service warned that aquarium caulerpa could cause the same damage to coastal areas of the United States.

A monitoring program was set up and, in 2000, found caulerpa in a coastal lagoon near Carlsbad, Calif.

A second infestation was found weeks later in Orange County's Huntington Harbor.

The California Fish and Wildlife Service successfully used a liquid chlorine treatment to control the infestation.

— L.B.

on the environmental damage they cause, but it is enormous.

According to the U.S. Geological Survey, zebra and quagga mussels filter every drop of water in Lake Erie every two to three days, depleting food needed by other species. Further, the mussels' fecal waste creates noxious blooms that are toxic to much aquatic life. The mussels' filtering decreases chlorophyll concentrations so that more sunlight is available for nuisance weeds to crowd their way in.

The round goby is poisoned by botulism after eating quagga and zebra mussels. More than 50,000 migrating loons were killed between 1999 and 2004 after eating round gobies, and each migrating season dead birds are hauled away by the truckload. No human deaths have been reported.

Zebra mussels have advanced into the St. Louis and Mississippi rivers. Eight native mussel species in the St. Louis River are threatened, and it could be worse in the Mississippi. "The river is going to face the same problems that we have in the Great Lakes," Hoff says.

"The question is whether the native ecosystem will survive if the zebra mussels move up the river," adds Lynelle Hanson, executive director of the St. Louis River Citizens Action Committee. "Invasive species went from being one of several problems 14 years ago to the primary threat to the harbor's biodiversity now."

The only significant gain so far is against the sea lamprey. These are partially contained by manmade barriers, and their numbers are decreasing because captured males are chemi-

cally sterilized and released unable to fertilize the females' eggs.

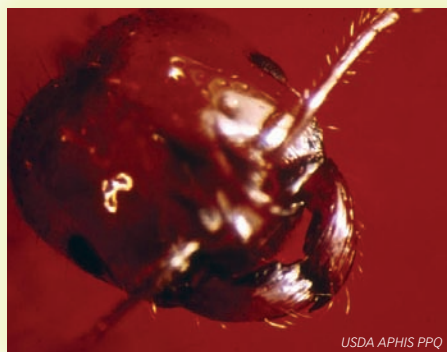
"We're making some real progress there," Hoff says. "But we're not even close to finding a way to extricate the zebra and quagga mussels. We don't have enough money."

Hopefully, that is about to change: Hoff says \$1 billion is scheduled next year for control and prevention.

Ironically, most plant and animal NIS in the United States were intentionally introduced as ornamental shrubs, agricultural crops, decorative seaweed, pets, and to control other NIS. Many, such as chickens and corn, are beneficial. In the past 40 years, accidental invasion has increased because of population growth, more travel, alteration of the environment and international trade.

Some 5,000 NIS have escaped and occasionally overrun U.S. ecosystems, such as the spotted knapweed in the Pacific Northwest. NIS weeds take over about 115,000 acres a year and change the structure of most wetlands. Purple loosestrife, for example, has reduced the biomass of 44 native species and endangered bog turtles and several duck species. Loosestrife occurs in 48 states and costs \$45 million each year in control efforts.

In the Great Smoky Mountain National park, NIS are displacing and threatening 10 native species; half the plants in Hawaii are NIS and endanger 600 natives. Yellow star thistle covers more than 4 million acres in northern California. European cheatgrass is overwhelming the shrubs-steppe area of the Great Basin in Utah and Idaho. Established



USDA APHIS PPQ

### Fire ant

Originally from South America, the black fire ant was likely brought in ship ballasts to Mobile, Ala., in 1918, and the red fire ant a decade later. According to the Ant Colony Developers Association, imported fire ants now infest more than 275 million U.S. acres. Fire ant populations can be reduced through pesticides, but a major drawback is that the fire ant "rapidly reinvades previously treated areas."

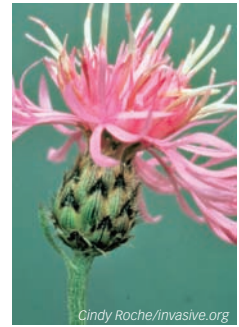




Bernd Blossey, Cornell University

### Purple loosestrife

This herbaceous perennial of Eurasian origin arrived in the northeastern United States in the early 1800s. According to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, it caused few problems until the 1930s, when it became aggressive in the floodplain pastures of the St. Lawrence River. Loosestrife now threatens native vegetation in shallow-water marshes throughout the nation's northeast and northcentral regions. Recent studies suggest loosestrife can tolerate soils and climates of other regions, threatening the wetlands and irrigation systems of the Great Plains and the West.



Cindy Roche/invasive.org

### Spotted knapweed

From a few seeds accidentally introduced in an alfalfa shipment from Romania in 1800, spotted knapweed has wreaked havoc on millions of acres of rangeland. It is found in every county in Montana, Idaho, Washington and Wyoming.

Knapweed has no natural enemies, and the roots emit a chemical that prevents other plants from growing. In its native Romania, naturally occurring bacteria neutralizes the root chemical, keeping knapweed from taking over. U.S. scientists hope to replicate it.

The Missoula County Weed Control District in Montana estimates a cost of \$47 million just to reduce knapweed by 5 percent a year. Damage to agriculture in 2003 was \$42 million. At the present rate, the loss to ranchers is expected to reach \$155 million yearly.

— L.B.

native species are being replaced, and wildfires, which once occurred at 50-year intervals, now rage every three to five years, destroying food and habitat for wildlife.

Florida annually spends \$14.4 million to control hydrilla that clog its waterways; nationwide, the cost is \$100 million in aquatic weed control. Five hundred insect NIS account for 98 percent of all agricultural pests; invasive species in California are responsible for 67 percent – \$13 billion – of the annual crop loss. Crop loss nationwide from NIS plants, vertebrates, disease and insects is estimated at \$58 billion annually. Control measures cost another \$3.5 billion.

The Burmese python, which grows to 20 feet or more, has gained a foothold in the Florida Everglades. “We don’t know yet how well established they are,” says Rick Cook, public affairs officer for Everglades National Park. “People tend to take notice when they see one.”

Recently, dozens of people witnessed an epic struggle between a python and a Florida alligator that lasted 30 hours. Ecologists fear the pythons threaten the wetlands by eating birds, amphibians and small mammals. Following the lead of Guam, which uses Jack Russell terriers to hunt the brown treesnake, the National Parks Service is experimenting to determine if beagles can effectively track pythons. Results are encouraging.

The pythons – along with monkeys, exotic birds, walking catfish that can travel more than a mile out of water and various other critters – were introduced by pet owners who no

longer wanted to care for them or by natural disasters that freed them.

The National Invasive Species Council was established in 1999 to coordinate the efforts of 23 federal agencies, state and local governments, and hundreds of private organizations all waging war against NIS. Until then, efforts against NIS were scattered and not always effective. The U.S. secretaries of Agriculture, Interior and Commerce serve as co-chairmen of the council, which spent more than \$600 million to control and eradicate NIS in 2004. The largest sum, \$353.2 million, paid for early detection and rapid response to prevent the spread of new NIS. Another \$274 million was spent to protect forests, and another \$274 million was used to help farmers and ranchers in the Western range lands control NIS weeds, such as knapweed and yellow star thistle.

Meanwhile, fire ants kill poultry, chicks, amphibians and small birds in the Southeast and Southwest. The European green crab has devastated the softshell crab industry in New England and Canada, and feral pigs – introduced for hunting – have stripped the grass bare in large areas of Hawaii and along the Pacific coast. Experts say more money is needed.

A report from the NISC sums it up: “We have a long way to go before the resources devoted to the problem are in proportion to the risks.” 🌿

*Lee Butcher is a former newspaper and magazine editor who lives in Jacksonville, Fla. He is the author of six books.*

Article design: Holly K. Soria

# Northern Exposure

*Unstable Canada border continues to invite terrorists seeking illegal U.S. entry.*

BY JOEL MOWBRAY

Mohammed al-Ramzah has spent most of his life operating in the shadows, but he recently appeared on the radar of U.S. authorities. His name has come up several times in the course of multiple investigations into the infamous terrorist group Hamas. Law enforcement officials have intensified their efforts recently and have discovered enough to make them quite wary of al-Ramzah – but not enough to arrest him, let alone convict him of anything.

Like most of the 9/11 terrorists, al-Ramzah lacks a criminal record and has not done anything overt to warrant extraordinary attention. But like many of the hijackers, his profile is one that should cause concern. Authorities have learned that al-Ramzah attends a radical mosque known for its rabid anti-Americanism. Several members have been arrested in recent years for grotesque crimes committed in the name of Allah. He also has social and business relationships with known radical Islamists and with Hamas operatives. Since he is a Palestinian who sneaked across the Canadian border two years ago, authorities have an option they wouldn't have for U.S. citizens: deporting him.

Almost as soon as deportation proceedings began, however, they hit a snag; al-Ramzah applied for asylum. His defense? That Israel believes he is a member of Hamas and therefore, if



U.S. Customs and Border Patrol agents inspect a passenger train from Canada entering the United States. *U.S. Customs & Border Patrol*



sent back, he would face persecution. To authorities, al-Ramzah's defense merely confirmed their strong suspicions that he is a Hamas terrorist. But when they wanted to obtain evidence from Israel of al-Ramzah's activities and relationships to bolster their case, they couldn't. Israel would have been happy to oblige, but the law forbids the federal government in asylum cases from procuring information from foreign governments, even if the material sought is evidence of terrorism.

Without hard evidence to definitively link him to Hamas, authorities face at best mixed odds in their quest to deport al-Ramzah. The judge could decide that al-Ramzah has been incorrectly tagged a Hamas operative, and thus he could be subject to persecution by Israel on the grounds of "political opinion."

The only upside of this case is that it is merely a hypothetical. Or, better, an amalgamation, a composite of hundreds of cases over the years in which individuals facing deportation on terror-related grounds instead seek asylum by using the charges against them as their defense.

That particular crack in our border security is hardly the only one. Though most of what little attention border security receives is focused on the Mexican border, the United States faces at least as great a threat from the north – not just from illegal, but also legal crossings.

Canada poses a danger in terms of people who come from there through proper channels because of its large Muslim population – much of which is deeply radicalized – its inability to control at least one of its major ports, and new concerns about the reliability of Canadian passports. The peril caused by illegal crossings, though not quantifiable, is surely greater simply because most of the same risk factors apply, and there's the added element of the unknown. We have no idea how many people actually are crossing or who they are. Here's the distressing reality: we are capable of stopping so few, but those we do catch are mostly released, and many of those not released successfully apply for asylum.

With a Muslim population that has exploded from less than 100,000 in 1981 to nearly 800,000 today, Canada has a proportionately much larger community than the United States, making it a top destination for Muslims looking to cross the Atlantic. As Canada's Muslim population has grown, it has radicalized. As international terrorism consultant Daveed Gartenstein-Ross notes, "In the late 1990s, the Canadian Security Intelligence Service concluded that most of the world's terrorist groups had been established in Canada, and that

these groups were both setting up operational bases and also attempting to gain access to the United States. There is no indication that the situation has improved."

A more particular concern is Canada's troubles with a main port. For the past several years, the Canadian press has had a field day with the government's losing battle with organized crime in the fight to control the Vancouver port. A small team of Royal Canadian Mounted Police investigators this spring claimed the coverage was largely baseless, but a U.S. government official – on the condition of anonymity – recounts an experience he had last year that suggests otherwise. He recalls a Canadian official whose agency was involved with supervision of the port told him he was too afraid to actually go there by himself.

While Canada appears incapable of knowing what exactly is coming into its country via the Vancouver port, the United States cannot be sure who exactly is coming across its northern border legally. On the same day in April that the Department of Homeland Security announced that all Canadians will need passports to enter the United States, Canada's auditor general made public her findings that Canada's passport system is not secure.

According to the report, Canada's passport office lacks the basic links to all law-enforcement databases that would allow it to deny all red-flagged applicants. The report also says unauthorized personnel have the ability to issue passports, and the staff lacks simple tools to detect fraud, such as black lights and magnifying glasses. The last point is particularly troubling since Algerian national Ahmed Ressam, the man arrested for the planned millennium bombings with a trunkful of explosives, obtained a Canadian passport under a fake name with a forged birth certificate.

But even if Canada eventually secures both its Vancouver port and its passports, the United States' northern border still represents a security threat. The numbers are stark: 4,100 miles of border from Washington to Maine, yet a mere 1,000 border patrol agents are on payroll to cover it all. Worse, only 250 to 300 agents actually are on duty at any given time. It's no surprise that a recently retired career border-patrol official estimates that, at best, one-third of northern border crossers are caught and that crossing has become easier in recent years.

In what executives at DHS label a success,

apprehensions at the northern border are down. Given the policy shift, it's not hard to understand why. New management along the Canadian border has shifted focus away from apprehension to prevention and deterrence. The practical result is that border patrol vehicles, in the words of one official, are "sitting on Xs." The results are not encouraging. In the first three months of this year, the Blaine sector in Washington experienced 21 drive-throughs (these were caught on camera). This statistic is particularly startling given that the sector has only roughly 35 miles of driveable land border. As of April, only three had been caught.

Water borders, notably the Great Lakes, are even less secure. They largely are the responsibility of the Coast Guard, but according to one congressional source, the agency – perhaps due to its small size and large mission – does not mount any serious efforts to prevent people from crossing water borders. The statistics appear to substantiate this. Migrants apprehended by the Coast Guard are categorized into one of seven ethnic classifications: Cuban, Haitian, Dominican, Mexican, Ecuadorian, Chinese and "other." Members of the first five categories are almost always caught off the coast of Florida, and the Chinese nationals typically are found in containers arriving on the West Coast. Of the 10,724 migrants interdicted last year, "other" accounted for just 67.

The United States' and Canada's two largest

Muslim communities, Detroit and Toronto, share a large flow of Muslims who travel back and forth across the water border, according to one congressional source. The Detroit area has some 125,000 to 200,000 Muslims, according to the *Detroit News*, and metro Toronto is home to an estimated 400,000 Muslims. Yet according to Coast Guard spokesman Ryan Barone, there is "no greater level of concern" about Muslims shuttling illegally and

undetected between these two cities than for any other illegals crossing water borders elsewhere.

Once an illegal alien is inside the United States, odds of him being sent back are small. And if the person is not a Canadian or Mexican citizen, the odds are even smaller. One recently retired border patrol officer said that if the alien isn't its citizen, Canada and Mexico probably won't take him back after he or she crosses the border. If not deported back to Canada or Mexico immediately after crossing the border, an illegal alien who is apprehended on U.S. soil, including just past the border, gets put into the general queue. Because of limited funding, immigration authorities only manage to detain and eventually deport a fraction of illegal aliens who are apprehended.

Beltway sniper Lee Malvo\*, an illegal immigrant from Jamaica, had been in custody before participating in 10 murders. He was arrested in Bellingham, Wash., on Dec. 19, 2001, yet a month later was set free on the condition that he appear for a removal hearing. He didn't. Less than nine months later, he and John Muhammad became the

### Border control by the numbers

**5,000:** Approximate miles of border with Canada

**1,900:** Approximate miles of border with Mexico

**95,000:** Approximate miles of U.S. shoreline

**29,000:** Approximate number of Border Patrol agents and officers

**317:** U.S. ports of entry

**210:** Average number of fraudulent documents confiscated each day at the U.S. border

**1:** Average number of travelers detained for terrorism or national security reasons

**135:** Average daily arrests at U.S. ports of entry

**1,237:** Average number of non-citizens denied entry each day at U.S. ports

**2,313:** Pounds of narcotics seized a day at ports of entry

Source: U.S. Customs and Border Patrol



A Canadian customs officer inspects the wheel well of a vehicle before it crosses into the United States through the Detroit-Windsor tunnel in Windsor, Ontario. AP





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beltway snipers.

Despite the Malvo case, immigration authorities still largely adhere to a policy of “catch and release.” Rules for whom to hold and whom to release are clearly laid out in a classified memo, obtained exclusively by this journalist, distributed in October 2004. As explained in the document, only the worst violent felons – rapists, murderers and terrorists – are considered “mandatory holds.” Everyone else is potentially releaseable.

Among those deemed not “mandatory holds”: those who we aren’t sure are terrorists but nonetheless “raise a national security concern”;

aliens who, for reasons other than mere race or ethnicity, “exhibit specific, articulable intelligence-based risk factors for terrorism or national security concern”; and, finally, all other slightly-less-violent violent criminals and “aliens who present an articulable danger to the community.” The above are included in a list of eight “high-priority” categories that follow four categories for “mandatory holds.” Below the long list of “high priority” groups are three each in “medium” and “lower priority.” On the “medium” list are “suspected alien and narcotics smugglers.” In

plain English, immigration officials are setting free drug smugglers and human traffickers. Not to mention potential future Lee Malvos.

For that small percentage of aliens held over for deportation or removal proceedings, many follow the lead of the fictitious Mohammed al-Ramzah. And because they are afforded full due-process rights, they have several bites at the apple. A person fighting removal or deportation by seeking asylum can first seek it from the judge hearing the case. If he is denied asylum, he can appeal to the Board of Immigration Appeals. If he is denied again, he can appeal yet again, this time to the federal courts. The process can take years. In 2003, 26 percent of those fighting removal or deportation by seeking asylum were granted it. An unknown

### Immigrant-wary Russians grapple with population freefall

Immigrants are not exactly pouring into Russia. However, according to a report by the All-Russia Public Opinion Center, Russians are nonetheless seriously concerned about new arrivals from other countries.

In 2003 and 2004, according to the news agency Novosti, Russia’s population declined by 1.8 million souls, with a net in-migration of a meager 40,000 from other countries. Those newcomers, however, concern the natives. The poll, taken last April, indicates 63 percent of Russians believe “the presence of immigrants increases the level of crime and corruption.” Three fifths of respondents said they believe immigrants take jobs away from locals, and 40 percent demand stricter immigration legislation.

Meanwhile, Russians are trying to figure out how to reverse their population decline. In order to maintain the current population level, every seven Russians must have 15 children, according to the Economic Ministry.

percentage won on appeal to BIA or the federal courts. Overall, more than half the asylum-seekers in the United States are successful.

Working in the favor of asylum-seekers like the fictitious Mohammed al-Ramzah is that no one granted asylum in the United States has ever been found guilty of committing a terrorist attack. And all aliens sneaking across the border from Canada enjoy less intensive security measures since none of the 9/11 terrorists entered the country by that means.

All 19 of the hijackers, in fact, came to the United States on temporary visas, and at least 15 of them did not qualify under the law but were granted visas anyway.

The original visa applications of the other four terrorists had been destroyed before they could be reviewed. Temporary visas merely were the easiest route for the terrorists to enter, especially for Saudis. Sept. 11 mastermind Khaled Sheikh Mohammed told interrogators that the reason 15 of the hijackers were Saudi was because they had the easiest access to visas.

Al Qaeda was keenly aware of our vulnerability with visas and exploited it. With terrorists often changing their patterns to avoid detection, it would seem dangerously naïve to believe Islamic

terrorists aren’t just as aware of our porous border with Canada, or that they haven’t already sent their operatives across it into the United States. 🌿

*Joel Mowbray is a syndicated columnist and author of “Dangerous Diplomacy: How the State Department Threatens America’s Security” (Regnery Publishing, 2003).*

*\* Malvo was convicted by a Virginia court for capital murder in 2003. John Muhammad was sentenced to death in the shootings. Both cases have been appealed.*

*Article design: Doug Rollison*





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# Race to the Future

*How America's missile defense initiative blossomed into an international coalition.*

BY ALAN W. DOWD

When Ronald Reagan first outlined plans to deploy a shield against missile attack, critics in America dismissed it as astronomically expensive and technologically infeasible. But officials in Moscow opposed Reagan's Strategic Defense Initiative for precisely the opposite reason: they knew it could work, and they knew that a Soviet equivalent was something their bankrupt empire could not produce. Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev made this clear during the 1986 summit in Reykjavik, Iceland, where he put everything on the negotiating table in exchange for just one concession: SDI.

An SM-3 is launched from USS *Lake Erie* as part of a Missile Defense Agency ballistic missile defense system test. The SM-3 intercepted a target launched from Kauai, Hawaii, at 3.7 kilometers per second, marking the fourth successful intercept for the system's sea-based element. *Missile Defense Agency*

Almost two decades later, widespread proliferation abroad, bipartisan agreement at home and technological advances in the field have transformed missile defense in two important ways: it is no longer merely a theoretical possibility, but rather a technological reality. And it's no longer simply a matter of national defense, but increasingly an important ingredient of international security.

**The Beginning.** Contrary to the beliefs of his detractors and supporters alike, Reagan didn't invent missile defense. In fact, the U.S. Army proposed missile defenses during World War II. A decade later, the Pentagon tested the first U.S. anti-ballistic missile system: the Nike Zeus. That system laid the groundwork for the Sentinel ABM, which the Johnson administration began deploying in 1967.

With the advent of the ABM Treaty in 1972, which limited missile defenses to just two ground-based sites, America's ABM program would be

deprived of vital resources. In 1974, the treaty was amended to allow just one ABM site. With the closure of that site in North Dakota, the U.S. ABM program slipped into dormancy.

Reagan revived the program with a mix of rhetoric and action. By 1983, the Pentagon was researching and developing ABM systems; a year later, it was conducting test flights.

Development continued into the 1990s. Even though he expressed reservations about the program, President Clinton earmarked about \$3 billion annually for missile defense, as *Slate* magazine discovered from Pentagon records. After a congressional commission raised a number of warnings about ballistic missiles, Clinton signed legislation that poured additional spending into the program and paved the way for deployment of a national missile defense "as soon as technologically feasible." His critics say he could have done more, which is true. But he also could have done less. In the end, he followed the Hippocratic Oath when it came to missile defense: he did no harm.



By endorsing missile defense, Clinton reflected the emergence of a new national consensus on the issue. Thanks in part to that consensus, President George W. Bush was able to accelerate the program. After convincing Moscow the system wouldn't upset the U.S.-Russia deterrent balance, he scrapped the anachronistic ABM Treaty and made formal requests for assistance to key allies.

Envisioning a layered system of missile defenses, Bush vowed to begin operating these initial capabilities in 2004 and 2005. Making good on the president's promise, the Pentagon started deploying the first interceptors at Fort Greely, Alaska, about a year ago. Two additional interceptors were to be deployed at Vandenberg Air Force Base, Calif., with 12 more missile-killers set for deployment in the months to follow – 10 in Alaska, two in California. The Pentagon intends to stand up another 10 interceptors as the decade progresses, bringing the total to 30.

Reminiscent of the old "Looking Glass" planes that stayed aloft 24 hours a day during the Cold War, warships armed with Aegis missile-tracking radars are now pacing the Sea of Japan, standing guard against a North Korean launch and feeding data to the interceptors. By the end of 2006, 18 Aegis-equipped warships will be at sea, some with the capability not only to track inbound threats but to intercept them with SM-3 missiles.

Still, the key word is "initial." Missile defense remains a work in progress. A sophisticated radar platform that can discern between decoys and warheads still needs to be towed to the Pacific Ocean and activated later this year. More missile-tracking satellites need to be put into orbit. More layers need to be added to the system, like the airborne laser – a missile-killing laser mounted on a 747 that can loiter outside enemy territory and destroy a missile long before it threatens U.S. soil – and space-based defenses like "Brilliant Pebbles," which would use a constellation of satellites to fire interceptors at long-range missiles. Plus, more tests need to be conducted.

Indeed, aside from cost – \$80 billion since 1985, with another \$53 billion earmarked through 2009 – much of the criticism of the system has to do with testing. After all, the system went online after just eight attempted intercepts, five of which were successful. In fact, an important test in December failed when an interceptor rocket based at the Marshall Islands malfunctioned. Several other tests have been scrubbed.

Sen. Carl Levin, D-Mich., says, "There's been no realistic testing." Former commander of U.S. Strategic Command Eugene Habiger adds,

"A system is being deployed that doesn't have any credible capability."

In response, Lt. Gen. Trey Obering, director of the U.S. Missile Defense Agency (MDA), argues, "You have to build it to really test it." His predecessor, Lt. Gen. Ronald Kadish, called missile defense "an evolutionary system that will respond to our technical progress and reflect real-world developments."

Weapons systems often are deployed before they are perfected or fully tested. Consider the JSTARS planes or bunker-penetrating bombs rushed to the Persian Gulf before Operation Desert Storm, or the much-maligned stealth technology that proved its worth in Serbia, Afghanistan and twice in Iraq. As Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld told *The Washington Post*, "They'd still be testing at Kitty Hawk, for God's sake, if you wanted perfection."

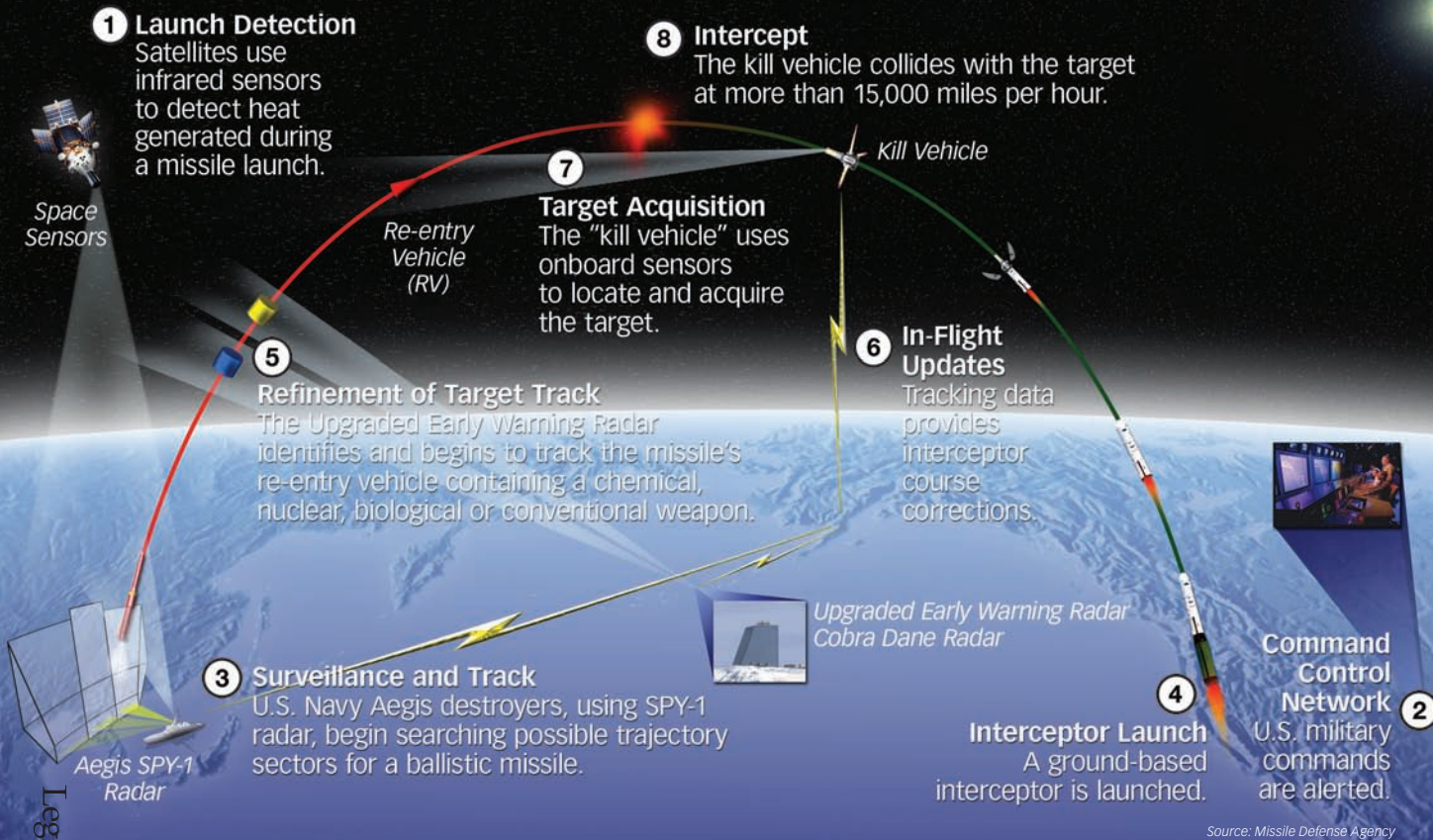
Richard Garwin, who chaired the State Department's Arms Control and Proliferation Advisory Board, says he worries that the new system is not capable of overcoming the kind of missiles and countermeasures that our enemies will likely employ: short-range, ship-launched missiles or decoy-laden long-range missiles. These are better targeted by boost-phase interceptors, which hit the missile before countermeasures are employed.

The MDA counters that it is laying the foundation for an "integrated, layered" system that will include several forms of missile defense and "reduce the military utility of ballistic missiles."

**The Threat.** Whatever form it takes, the time for missile defense has come. While it would be wasteful to deploy a Potemkin missile defense, it would be irresponsible to delay deployment until the system can guarantee 100-percent success – a standard so high that "failure" is inevitable. Today, no fewer than 25 countries have – or are developing – missileery that can threaten U.S. territory or bases. With their twin terror programs that seek to match rockets with nukes, North Korea and Iran top that list.

Pyongyang, which defiantly declared itself a nuclear power in 2003, can already strike Japan and South Korea with its existing arsenal. Its land-based version of an old Soviet submarine-launched missile will bring Guam and Okinawa into striking distance. A surprise launch of the three-stage Taepo Dong 1 in 1998 proved that with enough modifications, Pyongyang could hit the westernmost United States. And as the Congressional Research Service reports, its next generation of missileery – the Taepo Dong X – will be able to strike anywhere in America.

## How a missile defense system intercepts a long-range attack



Seemingly reading from the same script, Iran was caught enriching uranium and testing nuclear-device precursors in 2003. With a range of 800 miles, Tehran's Shahab-3 ballistic missile can strike U.S. allies and bases in Iraq, Israel, Jordan, Turkey, Afghanistan and the Persian Gulf. Iran has promised to stop developing a long-range variant of the Shahab-3, one that can hit U.S. interests in Europe. Of course, it also promised to stop enriching uranium – a promise it didn't keep.

The oceans can no longer protect us from these threats. In fact, the oceans may even spawn the threats. In late 2004, Rumsfeld confirmed that a Middle Eastern nation test-fired a ballistic missile from a cargo ship. "They had taken a short-range, probably Scud missile, put it on a transporter-erector launcher, lowered it in, taken the vessel out into the water, peeled back the top, erected it, fired it, lowered it, covered it up," he explained.

Deterrence, which critics of missile defense claim is the best answer to the missile threat, is meaningless with such an enemy – what if the next cargo ship to fire a missile is owned by a stateless terrorist rather than a government? – and so is the range of the missile. As Rumsfeld concluded, the "distinction we make between intercontinental, medium-range and shorter-range ballistic missiles doesn't make a lot of sense if

you're going to move the missile closer to the target."

**The Alliance.** Given these threats, it's no surprise Washington has been able to gather a broad coalition of allies to what is now a truly international missile defense (IMD) program.

Britain agreed in 2003 to software and hardware upgrades of ground-based radar stations at Fylingdales. In August 2004, Denmark approved similar upgrades at radar and satellite-tracking stations in Thule, Greenland. Once used to scan the skies for Soviet bombers, the bases in Britain and Greenland will now monitor the European horizon for accidental or rogue missile launches. As then-Secretary of State Colin Powell explained at ceremonies announcing Denmark's decision, "This is a way of providing protection to all of the civilized world – not just the United States, not just Greenland and not just Denmark."

The Polish and Czech governments are negotiating with Washington on the deployment of new radar stations on their soil, enabling the IMD system to peer deep into Asia, the Middle East and Africa. The Poles have even expressed a willingness to open their territory to missile interceptors. According to the British newspaper *The Guardian*, the Pentagon has been surveying the mountains of



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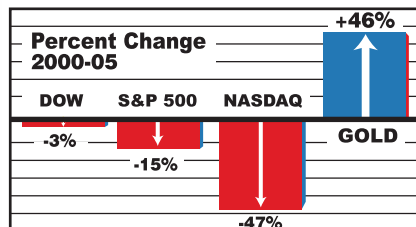
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southern Poland as a possible base for underground interceptor silos like those in Alaska and California. If selected, the Polish site would become the first U.S. interceptor on foreign soil.

Germany, Italy, the Netherlands and Norway are also cooperating with Washington on elements of missile defense. Even Russia has participated in theater missile defense exercises, under NATO auspices.

Although not as enthusiastic as some of its European counterparts, Canada has authorized the use of NORAD to support the IMD system.

Japan and Australia serve as the coalition's key pillars in the Pacific. In mid-2004, Australia signed a 25-year pact on missile defense cooperation, committing Canberra and Washington to joint development and deployment of new missile-tracking facilities and missile-killing warships.

With North Korea just next door, Tokyo is deadly serious about IMD, as evidenced by the Japanese military's request last August for a 35-percent increase in missile-defense spending. Although Tokyo and Washington had been quietly cooperating on missile defense since 1999, it wasn't until 2003 that Japanese Prime Minister Junichiro Koizumi gave the go-ahead to begin constructing a layered missile-defense system.

According to the MDA, the Japanese system includes a network of new ground-based radars; SM-3 interceptors, which attack incoming missiles at their highest point; missile-tracking Aegis warships, which patrol near rogue countries; and Patriot PAC-3s, which serve as a last line of defense. Testing, which began in and around Hawaii last year, is scheduled through 2006.

After being pelted by 39 Scud missiles in 1991, Israel has an appreciation for missile defense that others lack. In fact, Israel has already deployed its link in the IMD chain, the Arrow anti-missile system. With most of the tests conducted in the United States and half the funding coming from it as well, the Arrow arguably wouldn't exist without U.S. support.

Finally, India and Washington are exploring how missile defense might stabilize the Asian subconti-



The airborne laser is a megawatt, high-energy chemical oxygen iodine laser used on a Boeing 747-400F aircraft to detect, track and destroy ballistic missiles after launch. *Missile Defense Agency*

nent. The Indian government would like to purchase the Arrow from Israel. Before approving that transfer, Washington is weighing a number of balance-of-power issues with Pakistan and China.

The growing international support for missile defense is remark-

able. Once doomed to isolate Washington, alienate Russia and aggravate America's friends, missile defense has actually bolstered our position in the world, gained Moscow's acquiescence, enfolded four continents, and united some of the world's most pivotal and powerful states.

**The Shield.** These heady days of missile defense call to mind something Churchill said in 1955. Then, as now, weapons of mass destruction were a grave concern. But Churchill did not despair. Instead, he outlined a strategy premised on "defense through deterrents." He called on Britain to field "the most up-to-date nuclear weapons," to modernize its conventional forces, and preserve "the unity and brotherhood between the United Kingdom and the United States."

However, as Churchill understood from experience, the deterrent "does not cover the case of lunatics or dictators in the mood of Hitler when he found himself in his final dugout." We must be open to other "methods of protecting ourselves," and allied nations must stick together to maintain a "defensive shield."

Churchill wasn't talking specifically about missile defense, of course, but doubtless he would have been an ardent supporter. After all, he entrusted Britain's very existence to then-untested radar stations and fighter planes, and saw firsthand the terror and devastation caused by German rockets.

Because of his foresight, history has judged Churchill well. It will do no less with those who began building a shield for the 21st century. 🌿

*Alan W. Dowd is a senior fellow at Sagamore Institute for Policy Research.*

*Article design: Doug Rollison*



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# Brother, Don't Spare a Dime

*Financial outlook may be bleak for many retirees, but it's never too late to save.*

BY BEN STEIN

There are two giant megatrends that affect Americans today. One is global fanatical Islamic terrorism. We have already seen what it can do. Terrorism is frightening, but aside from living in a shelter, there is not much that the ordinary citizen can do about it. The other megatrend is the retirement of the Baby Boom generation. Or maybe it's just the phenomenon of retirement, in which close to 80 million Americans will be either close to retirement or in retirement within the next 20 years.

There is a simple reason why this is not just a megatrend, but a terrifying one at that: Americans typically do not save enough for retirement. It is that basic. For complex reasons based on a long period of high prosperity and low education and stunning lack of self discipline, Americans hardly save at all. While Chinese people with incomes a tiny fraction of ours save a third or more of their incomes, we save almost nothing. Sadly, we save very little as a government. Publicly and privately, we are wildly in debt. This also has scary echoes for retirement.

It is impossible to know what reforms will be needed for Social Security, but this we do know: benefits will be cut by reducing them for upper-income people, raising the age of retirement, and probably by both. As we also sadly have come to know, corporate pension plans are often – by no means always – in trouble. Many companies have slashed benefits or have dropped their pension plans altogether. This very much has the look of a trend. Even when corporate pension plans are secure, they rarely are defined benefit plans any longer. Now they are usually plans where you – the

employee – can pay in, but you have no clear idea of what you will have in the plan when you retire.

This imposes on most of us the duty to take charge of our retirement planning ourselves. Literally the only persons who can take retirement security for granted today are public employees, and that will not last as taxpayers raise a ruckus over why their taxes should fund lavish pension benefits for civil servants when they – the taxpayers – get no pension breaks at all.

I guess the truly wealthy can take retirement for granted as well, but they do not represent a huge number. If you are one of them and are reading this, it might amuse you to see the worries the “little people” have. Otherwise you can skip to the yachting section.

Retirement planning is a huge subject and one you need to discuss with a highly qualified retirement and financial planner. But herewith, from my perch as a man who has studied the retirement situation for many years now, are 20 basics about how to get ready for retirement. There are many, many more rules, but this is a start:

**Ben Stein** is an economist, lawyer, writer and actor. He is spokesman for the National Retirement Planning Coalition. With investment adviser Phil DeMuth, Stein is author of the forthcoming “Yes, You Can Still Retire in Comfort” (Hay House, fall 2005). Copyright (c) 2005 by Ben Stein







■ *Start saving early.* That means really early. Let the magic of compound interest on your investments help you with the heavy lifting. If you do not start until you are in your 60s or even your late 50s, you are in real trouble.

■ *Work with a reliable financial planner.* Interview a few of them to get started. Make a sensible, conservative plan to get to retirement from where you are starting right now – that means how much you have to save, where the savings go, and how to decide when to re-evaluate the plan.

■ *Stick to the plan.* It is not an option to not make your contribution because you want a plasma TV.

You must beyond doubt make the contributions your plan calls for unless there is a real – not fake – emergency, and then you have to make it up later.

■ *Max out all of your tax-advantaged retirement vehicles such as IRAs, Keoghs and Variable Annuities.* These can be complicated. Seek the advice of a competent financial planner.

■ *Max out all employer-subsidized retirement plans such as 401(k)s.* Only fools do not take advantage of free money. Don't be one of them.

■ *Buy your own home without fail, and preferably a vacation home if you can afford it.* The market is super high right now, and it will probably correct dramatically soon, but keep your powder dry for when it does.

■ *Save your behind, not your face.* Make a solid financial footing more important than looking cool

and having the coolest gadgets or the hippest clothes or going on the most lavish vacations.

■ *Have a sensible investment philosophy.* Take advantage of the historic advantages of investing in broad indexes and managed funds of common stocks, but balance that with a judicious mixture of broad-based indexes of bonds.

■ *Don't try to do something brilliant or be the Babe Ruth of investing.* Don't try to be the Wolf of Wall Street from your vantage point in your Barcalounger. Just conservatively try to keep up with the broad markets – that's investing. Buying on rumors and tips is gambling, and so is trying to pick stocks in competition with the pros.

■ *Always have a reserve of cash or short-term bonds so you do not have to dip into your long-term stock positions and jeopardize their chances for growth when you need cash.* This is the "buckets-of-money" strategy, as my pal and colleague Ray Lucia, a brilliant investment adviser, calls it.

■ *At the earliest stages of life, learn to enjoy yourself by some other means than showing off with money.* Reading library books is the perfect example.

■ *Acquire work skills that are in demand.* Aim to be consistently employed so you will not have to use up your retirement savings for daily life while unemployed.

■ *If you are starting a business, get someone else to put up the money – you put up the sweat.* Small businesses have dicey records. If the dice roll against you, you do not want to jeopardize your retirement.

■ *Consider carefully the tax implications of everything you do.* That's another reason to have a financial planner. Where you put your money tax-wise has great importance for your retirement future.

■ *Planning for your retirement is more important than a lavish life for your kids or grandkids.* They

### How prepared are you for retirement?

■ Nearly seven in 10 employees, or 68 percent, expect to work into retirement, but four in 10 retirees end up leaving the work force earlier than expected due to health problems, disability or downsizing.

■ Although most experts estimate retirees will need 70 to 80 percent of their current incomes to meet daily living expenses, nearly 40 percent of workers believe they will need less than 70 percent of their pre-retirement incomes to live comfortably after retiring.

■ Only 19 percent of workers are able to correctly state when they will be eligible for Social Security benefits.

■ Two in five workers say they are not too willing (19 percent) or not at all willing (15 percent) to reduce spending to save for retirement.

■ Four in 10 people age 55 or older have less than \$100,000 saved toward their retirement.

■ One in four workers do not sign up for their employer's 401(k)

retirement savings plan, and only one in 10 contribute the maximum amount allowed.

■ Nearly half of all U.S. workers don't contribute enough to their company's 401(k) savings plans to get full company matching funds.

■ About half cash out their 401(k) savings when changing jobs instead of rolling it over into an IRA to continue saving for retirement.

Sources: "2004 Retirement Confidence Survey," Employee Benefit Research Institute, and "Coming Up Short: The Challenge of 401(k) Plans," Alicia Munnell and Annika Sundén

are young and strong and can fend for themselves – besides, if there is one thing I promise you, it is that spoiling children with money is a very bad idea. I have done it, and it is a disaster.

■ *Know in your heart that you can err by having too little savings but not by having too much.* Very few people reach 70 and say, “Hey, honey, we have too much money. Where shall we go on vacation next? What kind of new boat shall we get?”

■ *Be able to say “no” to people who ask for money even if they have the same last name as you or your wife.*

■ *Have sufficient flexibility to adjust to drastic changes like high inflation – but do not follow fads or fancies.* That way lies catastrophe, as Internet investors can easily tell you.

■ *Keep firmly in mind that not a lot is worse than being old and poor, and the numbers required to avoid that fate are impressive.* Without getting into great detail, the sensible retiree should have about 10 times what he or she needs in expenses for living by the time she gets that gold watch (do people still get that gold watch?) if he or she has a

decent pension. Without much pension, a retiree should have between 12 and 15 times what he needs to live on – and do not think you can live on half of what you lived on before you retired. You still have to eat three meals a day, wear clean clothes, pay your air-conditioning bills, and you might face substantial medical costs and inflation after you retire.

■ *Plan for a long retirement.* The average American who reaches 65 can expect to reach about 82, and a very large number will reach 95, and even the century mark. Prices will rise in that time, so you will need investments that grow in value after you retire. Economic conditions will not be frozen on the day you retire.

I know this is terrifying. I also know that poverty in old age is far, far more terrifying. Learn from one of the smartest veterans I ever met: Jim Bellows, legendary journalist and editor and naval fighter pilot in World War II. Start at once and do the best you can. You can do it. 🌿

Article design: Doug Rollison

## A menu of retirement savings options

### Individual retirement account (IRA)

IRAs may be set up with any institution offering them – usually banks, mutual fund companies and brokerage houses. Investors can put as much or as little as they want in, as long as they meet the provider’s minimum and the government’s maximum.

Contributions can be made at various times during the year, with an April 15 deadline to invest up to the maximum and have it apply for the previous tax year.

■ *Traditional IRAs* are available to any employed person without a pension plan at work. Money you pay in is deducted from your taxable income. You do not pay taxes on that money or the money it earns until withdrawal. Withdrawals are allowed at 59½, if you become disabled, and under a few other circumstances.

■ *Roth IRAs* are offered to low-to moderate income earners. You do not get a tax deduction the year you contribute, but your earnings are never taxed. You can start taking out money at

the age of 59½. Other options for withdrawal are available.

■ *Non-deductible IRAs* do not allow you to deduct your contribution and defer taxes on the earnings until you withdraw money during your period of retirement or disability.

### Keogh

These are tax-deferred programs for self-employed people. Any amount, from the minimum the provider allows to the maximum that the government allows, can be contributed – in most cases, a percentage of self-employment income. Most of the same institutions offering IRAs also offer Keoghs. Investors can have a Keogh in addition to other plans.

### 401(k)

This is a retirement plan offered by many private-sector employers. Under it, investors agree to set aside a certain amount monthly to an investment that the employer offers – usually one of about a dozen. Contributions are made by payroll deduction. In many cases,

the employer matches contributions to some extent. Some allow investors to borrow money saved and pay it back by payroll deduction. Most allow one to roll over money to another tax-deferred plan if a job is left.

A 401(k) has the same tax benefits of a traditional IRA – the money put in and the money the plan earns is not taxed until it is taken out after age 59½.

### Variable annuities

These are investment vehicles most advisers recommend only if none of the others work for an individual or if other vehicles are maxed out. Income from work is not necessary to participate in a variable annuity. One may put in as much as wanted, whenever wanted, subject to the provider’s policies.

Variable annuities have an insurance component, making them more expensive than other tax-deferred investments. Several mutual-fund companies have lower-cost variable annuities that offer a variety of investments.



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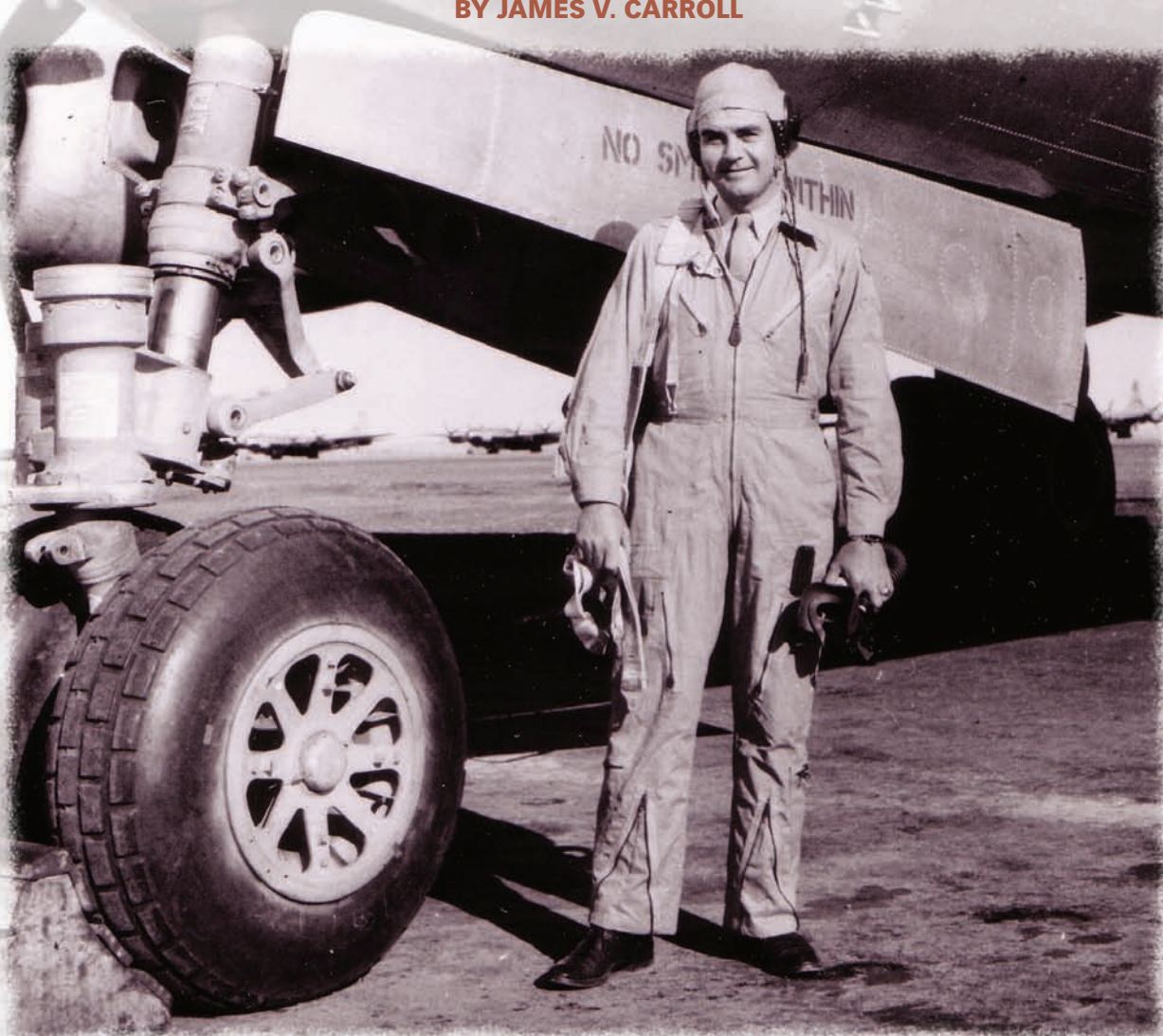


# History over Hiroshima

*Famed pilot Paul Tibbets recalls the moment 60 years ago  
he and his crew helped bring an end to World War II.*

**BY JAMES V. CARROLL**

Legion  
**32**  
8/2005



Col. Paul Tibbets and the *Enola Gay* at Roswell Army Airfield, N.M., after their historic mission. *U.S. Air Force*



**All the pilot had was the word of engineers.**

*They believed he would have less than one minute to escape the blast. He twisted hard, into a diving 60-degree turn. He needed to instantly change course of the lumbering Flying Superfortress, by 155 degrees. The gigantic shockwave was closing at 1,100 feet per second. If he failed to turn and outrun it, the plane and its 12-man crew would be consumed. Forty-three seconds into the evasive maneuver, a blinding light flashed through the cockpit. The tail gunner stared in awe. A 100-million-degree fireball billowed up from below.*

They braced themselves to ride its wake. The pilot's teeth began to tingle; his fillings were introduced to radioactivity. Nine miles from ground zero, the shockwave caught and enveloped them. The moment of truth was at hand. The plane bounced through the air. The pilot and co-pilot fought to keep it airborne. A second echo-effect shock hit. Crewmembers would later compare the experience to the feeling of receiving heavy, heavy flak. The engineers had theorized right. The bomber beat the bomb.

He gazed through the cockpit window and saw a giant purple mushroom cloud. Even at 45,000 feet and rising, he feared the cloud would engulf the plane. On the ground, fires belched dense smoke. The city was blanketed from view. "Fellows," announced Army Air Corps pilot Col. Paul Warfield Tibbets Jr., "you have just dropped the first atomic bomb in history."

Copilot Capt. Robert A. Lewis simply scribbled into his logbook two words: "My God!"

It was Aug. 6, 1945. Tibbets and his crew aboard the B-29 bomber *Enola Gay* had just delivered the first blow of a one-two punch to end World War II, by dropping the first atomic weapon over Hiroshima, Japan. The uranium-based bomb exploded approximately 1,900 feet above the city, unleashing the destructive power of 40 million pounds of TNT. "Little Boy," as the bomb was called, flattened and burned 4.1 square miles, or 60 percent of the city. More than 66,000 Japanese citizens perished in the blast. Thousands of others were injured. Ultimately

200,000 people are estimated to have died as a result of the explosion.

Three days later, Aug. 9, 1945, a 10,800-pound plutonium-based bomb – also with the explosive power of more than 40 million pounds of TNT – was dropped over the city of Nagasaki, Japan. Fifty percent of the city was destroyed. More than 39,000 Japanese were instantly killed. Some 70,000 people ultimately died as a result of the nuclear explosion.

Japan formally surrendered six days later.



Paul Warfield Tibbets Jr.

**Duty, Honor, Country.** "I've never given a minute's thought to regret," Tibbets says today at age 90, 60 years after one of history's most profound moments.

"I was an American airman charged with a momentous duty whose purpose it was to do everything possible to shorten the war. It was an honorable endeavor, and it succeeded."

Tibbets, who retired from the Air Force in 1966 as a brigadier general, is mindful of the thousands who died as a result of the two bombs dropped on Hiroshima and Nagasaki. He is quick to point out, however, that had the

Japanese not surrendered when they did, the planned invasion of Japan would have resulted in the deaths of more than a million lives.

"Understand, the job of every wartime soldier, sailor, Marine or airman is to win and win as quickly as possible," Tibbets says. "The way I look at it, 'Little Boy' and 'Fat Man' saved more than a million lives. There's no shame in that. There's no shame in saving lives."

**2 a.m. Aug. 6, 1945** The *Enola Gay*, carrying the atomic bomb "Little Boy," begins its long flight from Tinian. Two observation planes carrying cameras and scientific instruments follow.

**6 a.m.** The bomb is fully armed on board the aircraft, and Col. Paul Tibbets announces to the crew that the plane is carrying the world's first atomic bomb.

**7 a.m.** Japanese radar detects the aircraft heading toward Japan, and an alert is broadcast throughout the Hiroshima area. Soon, a U.S. weather plane circles over the city, but there is no sign of bombers.

Most historians agree that dropping the uranium and plutonium bombs on Hiroshima and Nagasaki shortened World War II, thereby avoiding an inevitable Allied invasion of Japan and its predicted carnage to both sides. There are historians and ethicists who hold a dissenting opinion, but Japanese aviator Mitsuo Fuchida is not among them.

Fuchida, Tibbets says, approached him at a military reception sometime after the war and said, "I'm Fuchida. Shall we talk about it?"

Apparently recognizing that the American aviator did not understand what he was talking about, Fuchida told Tibbets that he had led the Japanese surprise attack on Pearl Harbor.

"You sure did surprise us," Tibbets recalls saying.

"What the hell do you think you did to us?" Fuchida replied.

The two war-hardened aviators and survivors chatted a few minutes when Fuchida confided to Tibbets, "You did the right thing to drop the bombs. Japan would have resisted an invasion using every man, woman and child, using sticks and stones if necessary."

"That would have been a slaughter," Tibbets says. "I believed at the time, and I believe now, that President Truman made the right call."

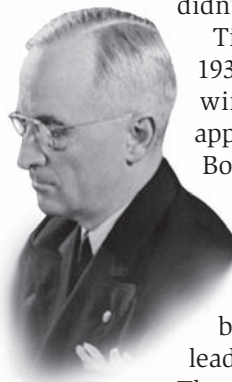
**Baby Ruth Bomber.** As a boy of 12, Tibbets couldn't have known he had a date with destiny as he tossed Baby Ruth candy bars from the passenger seat of a biplane into the bleachers of Hialeah racetrack in Miami.

**"The Japanese began the war from the air at Pearl Harbor. They have been repaid many fold. And the end is not yet. With this bomb we have now added a new and revolutionary increase in destruction to supplement the growing power of our armed forces. In their present form these bombs are now in production and even more powerful forms are in development.**

**"It is an atomic bomb. It is a harnessing of the basic power of the universe. The force from which the sun draws its power has been loosed against those who brought war to the Far East ...**

**"... Let there be no mistake; we shall completely destroy Japan's power to make war."**

— Statement by **President Truman**  
16 hours after the Enola Gay dropped  
the atomic bomb over Hiroshima



His parents, Enola Gay Haggard and Paul Warfield Tibbets, had hoped their first son might someday become a physician. But that day, as pilot Doug Davis throttled back the engine of his Waco 9 and tipped its wing, young Tibbets thrilled at the site of earthbound revelers scrambling to grab candy bars parachuting toward them. It was his maiden flight. The boy knew then it would not be his last.

"I tried to honor the wishes of my mother and father," Tibbets says. "But the attraction of flying was too much to resist. The truth is, I guess I really didn't attempt to resist all that much."

Tibbets enlisted as a flying cadet in 1937 and a year later received his pilot wings at Kelly Field. In 1942 he was appointed commander of the 340th Bomb Squadron, 97th Bombardment Group, where he later flew the B-17 Flying Fortress in the first daylight bombing raid over Europe. He had 25 combat missions before being transferred to Algeria to lead air attacks in the North Africa Theater. In 1943, Tibbets returned to the United States to test the combat worthiness of Boeing's new B-29 Superfortress.

It was his familiarity with the B-29 that ultimately earned Tibbets command of the top-secret 509th Composite Group. His responsibility was to train flight crews to deliver "Little Boy" and "Fat Man" and to supervise modifications to a number of B-29s to make them capable of carrying and delivering the two weapons. In spring 1945, the 509th – with 1,500 enlisted men, 200 officers and 15 B-29s – secretly set up shop at North Field on Tinian Island in the Marianas.

Tibbets talks freely today when asked about "Little Boy" and "Fat Man" and his role in loosing the atomic age. He did it. He's proud he did it. Move on, he says.

The retired general more easily discusses other adventures in his 29-year military career, like in 1938 when he, a young second lieutenant, wiled away Sunday mornings shooting skeet with then Lt. Col. George S. Patton, "who hated to lose even a 25-cent bet," Tibbets recalls. Or the time he flew the lead B-17 in the first daylight-bombing raid over Nazi Germany. Or summer 1944, when he taught

**7:25 a.m.** The *Enola Gay*, at 26,000 feet, cruises over Hiroshima.

**8 a.m.** Japanese radar detects two B-29s. Radio stations quickly

broadcast a warning for people to take shelter. Many do not abide.

**8:09 a.m.** The crew of the *Enola Gay* confirms the city below as

Hiroshima and receives a message that the weather is good.

**8:16 a.m.** The bomb is released.

*TheEnolaGay.com*



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two Women's Air Service Pilots, Dora Dougherty and Didi Moorman, to fly the B-29 Superfortress to shame male airmen reluctant to fly the accident-prone bomber. The two WASPs were the only two women ever rated to fly the aircraft.

Tibbets' intimate knowledge of tactical atomic bomb delivery and his expertise in testing new aircraft served him well after the war. In 1946, he served as technical adviser to the commanding general for the Bikini Island bomb tests in the South Pacific. He also played a significant role in promoting and testing the B-47 Stratojet, America's first pure jet strategic bomber developed in the early 1950s. He did a stint in France at NATO and established the national Military Command Center at the Pentagon.

In civilian life, Tibbets flew Lear jets in Switzerland and later hooked up with Executive Jet Aviation in Columbus, Ohio. He performed a number of tasks for the all-jet air taxi service prior to becoming EJA board chairman in 1982. When he retired from EJA in 1985, Tibbets had acquired nearly 400 hours in Lear jets and had an Air Transport Pilot rating. He is enshrined in the National Aviation Hall of Fame.

Tibbets also had a brief brush with the Hollywood crowd. Actor Robert Taylor played him in the 1952 film "Above and Beyond." The movie types did a pretty good job, Tibbets wrote in his

1995 book "Enola Gay." "When history is transformed into entertainment, it's not unusual to jazz things up a bit to heighten suspense and excitement – but usually within the framework of probability," Tibbets wrote.

The movie did not exactly get everything right, he explained. "'Above and Beyond' scriptwriters put the words 'Oh my God, what have we done?' into my mouth," Tibbets says today. "I never said that. Bob Lewis wrote 'My God!' in a journal he was keeping on the flight. That's how I remember it, anyway."

A tape recording of cockpit conversation aboard the *Enola Gay* during the Hiroshima raid disappeared after it was turned over to an Army information officer, he adds.

Tibbets understands he will forever be known as the pilot who transported mankind's first atomic bomb to its destructive destination. He doesn't revel in, or hide, his role. He is, however, grateful for the words President Truman shared with him after the war: "Don't you ever lose any sleep over the fact you planned and carried out that mission ... It was my decision. You had no choice." 🌿

*James V. Carroll is an assistant editor at The American Legion Magazine.*

*Article design: Doug Rollison*

### Atomic veterans

Studies of Japanese atomic bomb survivors are credited for linking radioactive exposure with a number of health conditions, including leukemia, various cancers and cataracts.

VA provides special-priority enrollment for health-care services to U.S. military veterans who were exposed to radiation while on active duty. To qualify for VA's program for veterans exposed to ionizing radiation, veterans must meet specific criteria. Eligible veterans include:

- Those who participated in atmospheric nuclear-weapons testing.
- Those who participated in U.S. occupation of Hiroshima and Nagasaki.
- Those who, in some cases, were held prisoner of war in Japan.
- Those who, in some cases, served at certain gaseous diffusion plants.
- Those who participated in certain underground nuclear-weapons tests in Alaska.

In addition, these "atomic veterans" are eligible to participate in VA's ionizing radiation registry examination program. Veterans who received nasopharyngeal (NP) radium treatments during

their military service are also eligible to participate in the VA Ionizing Radiation Registry examination program.

Of the estimated 400,000 eligible veterans, 22,000 have participated in the registry.

VA has a number of publications outlining programs and benefits to eligible veterans exposed to ionizing radiation, including the newsletter *Ionizing Radiation Review*. The newsletter and the Ionizing Radiation Registry Handbook are posted on VA's Web site and are available by mail. Specify the name of the publication you request on the envelope and enclosed letter.

**[www.va.gov/irad](http://www.va.gov/irad)**

**Deputy Director  
Environmental Agents Service (131)  
VA Central Office  
810 Vermont Ave.  
Washington, DC 20420**

For more information, veterans may contact The American Legion.

**[www.legion.org](http://www.legion.org)  
(800) 433-3318**





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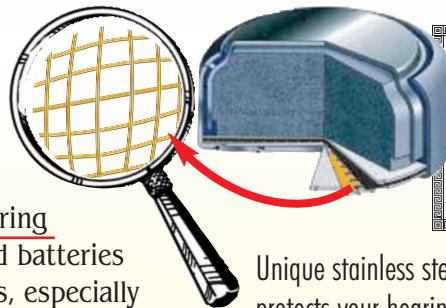


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[PARTNERS]

# FREEDOM CAR

**August rollout is scheduled for the most patriotic team on the NASCAR Busch Series racing circuit.**

The American Legion-Team Johnson Motorsports partnership is unlike any other in NASCAR. The Freedom Car presents no sponsorship cost to the Legion but is fueled by sales of merchandise. It needs support from race fans in the Legion family.

By purchasing NASCAR-branded Freedom Car merchandise, Legionnaires can keep No. 76 on the track.

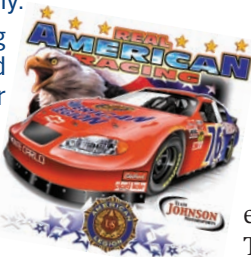
Freedom Car merchandise is available at wholesale prices to American Legion posts. Shirts, hats and pens make great auction or raffle items or can be sold at retail prices by the posts. NASCAR ranks high among the favorite spectator sports of military service members.

[www.legionracing.org](http://www.legionracing.org)

[www.legion.org](http://www.legion.org)

(click on the Freedom Car link)

Request merchandise order forms by mail: (704) 658-9988



**M**ore than 75 million auto-racing fans around the world will soon see a new red, white and blue blur circling NASCAR Busch Series speedways throughout the United States. The No. 76 American Legion Freedom Car is expected to make its debut as early as this month, with a fast-rising star

behind the wheel and an ownership team dedicated to winning and to honoring our nation's veterans.

"Wartime-era veterans of all ages have shown support and enthusiasm for NASCAR," says Team Johnson Motorsports owner Jack Johnson. "The American Legion Freedom Car is our way of saying, 'Thank you for serving our country' and for veterans' continued support of this great American pastime."

The Freedom Car is expected to race Aug. 6 at Raceway Park in Indianapolis and in selected Busch events through the end of the 2005 season.

The driver is the owner's son, Jerick Johnson, a Sons of The American Legion member and two-time Mizzou Speedway track champion. He will remain eligible to compete for Rookie of the Year in 2006.



## PIT PRECISION

Pit crews consist of seven members: front tire changer, front tire carrier, rear tire changer, rear tire carrier, jack man, gas man and gas catch-can man.

A skilled pit crew can change four tires, fill a car with fuel, clean the front air intake, give the driver water, and make chassis and spring adjustments in less than 14 seconds.

Crews use nitrogen instead of air to power their tools and to fill tires.

[AWARDS]

## Heroic detective named Legion's top law officer

Det. Mark Cottom risked his life to save three others during floods 10 years ago in Springfield Township, Pa. Cottom swam through raging waters to rescue two trapped elderly women, then re-entered the torrent and swam to a house where a man was stranded in his basement. He freed him seconds before the basement wall collapsed. For

that day's work, he earned the department's Medal of Heroism.

And now, for a 30-year career that more recently has made the Air Force veteran a hero to young people in his community, Cottom is The American Legion's Law Enforcement Officer of the Year for 2005.



Cottom works in Springfield's juvenile division, where he helped establish a child-registry program in schools and coordinates the Drug Abuse Resistance Education (DARE) program. He was the Pennsylvania Juvenile Officers Association Juvenile Officer of the Year in 2000.



#### PEEL AND SEE

Windshields have layers of plastic "tear-off" sheets that can be peeled away to clean the driver's window.

**ROOKIE ON BOARD** A yellow strip across the rear of a race car signifies a first-year driver.

**GAS MASS** An 11-gallon gas can weighs 80 pounds when full. It takes two gas cans to fill the 22-gallon fuel cell of a Busch car.

Filled, a Busch car must weigh at least 3,400 pounds.

**"We have been doing research and development the past few years, and we feel that we can be a top contender in the near future. We decided to go with a younger driver so he can grow with the program."**

— TJM owner Jack Johnson



**Driver:** Jerick Johnson

**Age:** 24

**Hometown:** Fairbault, Minn.

**Achievements:** 2001 Mizzou Speedway Rookie

of the year; 2001 and 2002 Mizzou Speedway Track Champion; 2001 and 2002 AMCO Series Points Champion

#### NO TREAD ON ME

Busch cars have no tread on their tires, and each tire can weigh as much as 75 pounds.

#### NEXTEL VS. BUSCH

Eligible models in both Nextel Cup and Busch Series circuits include Chevrolet Monte Carlo, Ford Taurus and Dodge Intrepid. Both are equipped with cast-iron 5.7L V8 engines with aluminum cylinder heads, 22-gallon fuel tanks and 4-speed transmissions.

Nextel Cup cars hit higher speeds due to larger carburetors. Busch cars are a little wider, and Nextel cars have a longer wheel base.

	NEXTEL	BUSCH
<b>Horsepower</b>	790 @ 9400 rpm*	660 @ 7900 rpm*
<b>Top speed</b>	200 mph	195 mph
<b>Body height</b>	51 inches	50.5 inches
<b>Body width</b>	72.5 inches	74.5 inches
<b>Body length</b>	200.7 inches	203.5 inches
<b>Wheel base</b>	110 inches	105 inches

\*Restrictor plate racing may affect horsepower

#### [FOREIGN AFFAIRS]

##### The Chinese worker, redefined

**1960:** Wang Jinxi earned the title "vanguard worker" from the People's Republic of China, an honor historically bestowed upon one who performs well in high-output production lines or excels at delivering socialist ideology to children in rural schools. Wang's award 45 years ago came after he jumped into a vat of cement and madly flailed his arms and legs because his work unit lacked a functional mixer.

**2005:** Seven-foot-six NBA superstar Yao Ming, right, of the Houston Rockets earned China's prestigious "vanguard worker" award after averaging 18.3 points a game for a decidedly capitalist U.S. sports team that gave him an \$18 million contract and the opportunity to rake in another \$10 million a year in endorsements.



©2005 NBAE

#### [EDUCATION]

##### Leaning to the left

**72:** Percentage of U.S. college professors who today describe themselves as "liberal."

**34:** Percentage of U.S. college professors who described themselves as "liberal" in 1984.

— From "Politics and Professional Advancement Among College Faculty," available at The Forum, an online journal of applied research and politics, referring to a national study of 183 schools and more than 1,600 educators.

# Flag-protection opponents cling to empty excuses

## Flag bill sails

The U.S. House of Representatives on June 22 passed H.J. Res. 10 – a resolution to give Congress power to “prohibit the physical desecration of the flag of the United States” – by a 286-130 vote. It was the sixth straight time since 1995 a supermajority in the House approved the measure, sending it on to the Senate.

BY RICHARD D. PARKER

Once again, a large majority of the U.S. Senate is committed to send the flag amendment to the states for an up-or-down vote by representatives of the people. Once again, this majority may be just shy of the required two-thirds. And, once again, a few swing senators are coming up with old excuses for stifling a uniquely democratic process of constitutional lawmaking.

These senators say they agree with most Americans: Congress should be allowed, as in the past, to protect the flag from physical desecration. They say there’s a need to protect the American flag from defecation, urination and burning. They do not claim it would somehow erode free speech to do so. “But, but ...” Here is where the excuses come in.

First, they insist there’s another way. A flag-protection statute, they say, would be better than a constitutional amendment. This misses the point.

The point of the constitutional amendment is precisely to permit the enactment of a statute. A senator who supports a statute must support the amendment.

There is no way around it.

The reason, of course, is that a bare 5-4 majority of the Supreme Court for the first time in our history, 15 years ago, held that specific statutory protection of the

flag is impermissible. The five justices said physical desecration is “speech” and that singling out the American flag for protection amounts, in itself, to favoring one point of view over other competing points of view. Under this reasoning, not just one statute, but any flag-protection statute, will be invalid.

The swing senators claim to disagree with the Court. But they are reluctant to back up their disagreement with their vote. Instead, they want to imagine the Court never did and said what it did and said.

When pressed on this point, they move on to a second excuse for blocking progress of the amendment. The Court, they imagine, will soon change its mind. This is a fantasy.

Four justices have joined the Court since it last faced the flag-protection issue. Of them, three – David Souter, Ruth Bader Ginsburg and Stephen Breyer – would surely stick with the Court’s previous decision. Along with two others – Antonin Scalia and Anthony Kennedy – who were in the majority 15 years ago, that makes a majority of five. If the fourth new justice, Clarence Thomas, were to agree with Scalia, as he often does, that would make six. What is more, the three justices thought most likely to retire in the next several years – William Rehnquist, John Paul Stevens and Sandra Day O’Connor – were all in dissent on the issue. Their replacement with pro-flag-protection successors would make no difference at all.

Again, there is no alternative. The swing senators either must accede to the Court’s continued ban on any statute specifically protecting the flag, a position with which they say they profoundly disagree, or, acting on their professed support for flag protection, they must allow the 50 states to vote on the proposed constitutional amendment – thus permitting correction of what they say is the Court’s mistake.





***"This is not a Democrat or Republican issue. It is an American issue. The American people are counting on the Senate to pass the flag amendment, send it back to all 50 state legislatures and let the people decide."***

– American Legion National Commander Thomas P. Cadmus, following passage of H.J. Res. 10

Now we come to their third excuse. They may grant that there is, in truth, no way to protect the flag from physical desecration without a constitutional amendment. But they worry that any alteration of the Constitution – especially any "amendment of the first 10 amendments" – is a wrong greater than any wrong it would correct. It is more important, so the excuse goes, to protect the Constitution than to protect the flag. This, however, poses a false choice. In fact, it turns things upside-down.

For one thing, it confuses the Constitution with a controversial "interpretation" of it by the Court. The flag amendment would not alter the meaning of the Constitution. It was a handful of justices who did that. What the amendment would do is restore to the Constitution the meaning it had 16 years ago, its original meaning. By permitting protection of the flag, the amendment at the same time protects and preserves the Constitution.

For another thing, the process of amendment does not undercut the Constitution. To the contrary, it is prescribed by the Constitution. What is more, the amendment process is essential to the Constitution's deepest foundation – the principle of popular sovereignty affirmed in its first words: "We the people." Making use of this process reaffirms, and thus preserves, that foundation.

Of course, an amendment ought not be undertaken lightly. It ought to have sustained, very substantial popular backing before being sent to the states. Not many could pass that test. But the flag amendment does. For a decade and a half, the overwhelming bulk of the American people have supported it.

The swing senators say they, too, support flag protection. Now the time has come to see if they really do.

*Richard Parker is the Williams Professor of Law at Harvard Law School.*

[SURVEY]

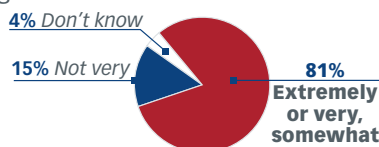
## AMERICA TO CONGRESS: 'Protect Old Glory'

An independent poll confirms a majority of Americans want the U.S. Flag protected from desecration, even if it means amending the Constitution. "This poll again confirms what we already know," American Legion National Commander Thomas P. Cadmus said after results were reported from a June 16-19 poll of adults nationwide. "When asked a straightforward question, most Americans will give you a straight answer: protect Old Glory."

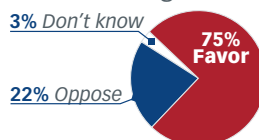
Eighty-one percent said it was important to make flag desecration illegal, 75 percent said they would favor passage of a constitutional amendment to allow Congress to enact flag-protection laws, while 62 percent said they are unlikely to vote for someone who is opposed to protecting the U.S. Flag.

### Public salutes flag protection

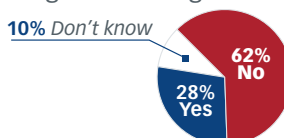
How important do you think it is to make desecrating the U.S. Flag against the law?



Do you favor or oppose the passage of a constitutional amendment that would allow Congress to enact laws to protect the U.S. Flag?



Would you be likely to vote for someone who is opposed to protecting the U.S. Flag?



Source: Random poll of 1,004 adults nationwide taken June 16-19, 2005, by Opinion Research Corp., commissioned by the Citizens Flag Alliance, Inc. Margin of error: 3 percent.

[VERBATIM]

***"It's like TV Land going to Auschwitz and proposing to erect a statue of Col. Klink."***

– John Carr, a former member of the Salem, Mass., Historic District Commission on TV Land's proposal to erect a statue of Samantha, of TV's "Bewitched," in the town

***"We are not electing Mr. Congeniality. We do not need Mr. Milquetoast in the United Nations."***

– Sen. George Allen, R-Va., speaking in support of the John Bolton nomination to become U.S. ambassador to the United Nations

***"I think that fellow is still writing for the Times."***

– President George W. Bush at the opening of the Lincoln Museum in Springfield, Ill., after quoting a New York Times article from 1861 that lampooned Abraham Lincoln's mastery of English

***"To live under the American Constitution is the greatest political privilege that was ever accorded to the human race."***

– Attributed to Calvin Coolidge, 1924

***"He's not eating. Neither am I."***

– British mother Theresa Willett, whose 5-year-old son Jordan opened a box of cereal and found a two-foot snake inside

# Parkinson's disease

*Brain stimulation among promising new treatments.*

**BY DR. JOEL KUPERSMITH**

Parkinson's disease is the second most common neurodegenerative disease in the United States, after Alzheimer's. Nearly 1.5 million Americans have the disease, and some 50,000 new cases are diagnosed annually. VA treats at least 40,000 veterans with Parkinson's each year.

Most people with the disease are older than 50. However, some forms can strike younger adults. Actor Michael J. Fox was diagnosed with juvenile parkinsonism at 30. Former heavyweight boxing champ Muhammad Ali was 40 when diagnosed with pugilistic Parkinson's syndrome, due to repeated head trauma.

Characteristics are slow movement, poor balance, shaking and muscle stiffness. Other signs may include stiff facial expression, shuffling walk, muffled speech and depression. These symptoms become worse over time, which causes anxiety and distress for sufferers who may find it increasingly difficult to function at work and at home.

Parkinson's disease results from a loss of brain cells that make dopamine, a chemical that helps control movement and other body functions. The underlying cause is unclear. Some studies suggest it may be a combination of genetic vulnerability and exposure to certain toxins, such as pesticides or heavy metals.

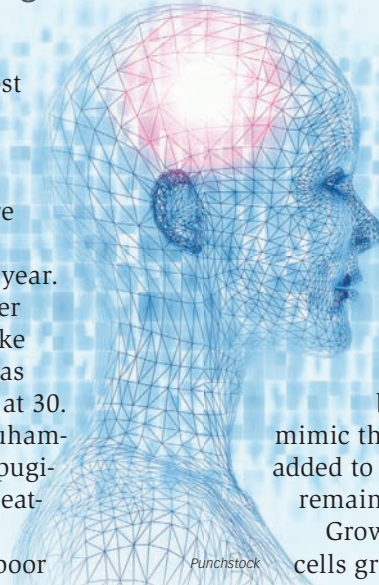
**Treating Parkinson's.** For the past 30 years, treatment has centered on levodopa, a medication converted into dopamine in the brain. It is given

with another drug, carbidopa, which helps keep levodopa from being metabolized before it reaches the brain, allowing for lower doses. Levodopa and carbidopa can still cause adverse effects, such as loss of appetite, nausea, abnormal heart rhythms, low blood pressure, uncontrollable body movements and abnormal behavior. Newer medications that mimic the effects of dopamine may be added to the regimen, but adverse effects remain a problem.

Growth factors – substances that make cells grow – may soon be used to restore dopamine-producing cells in the brain. Animal studies are promising, but research has yet to establish the safety of these drugs for humans. In theory, such treatments would not only control symptoms, but slow progression of the disease.

In 1997, the Food and Drug Administration approved an innovative surgical treatment for Parkinson's called deep-brain stimulation, in which doctors insert a spaghetti-thin wire deep into the brain. The wire is attached to a small electrical device implanted under the skin in the chest. Electrical pulses stimulate the region of the brain where tremors originate.

Deep-brain stimulation does not slow the disease, but it can improve symptoms. Because of the risks, only those for whom medication has stopped working are considered for the procedure.



Punchstock

## Operation: Military Kids

[TROOP SUPPORT]

Creates a community support network for military youth.

Delivers recreation, social and educational programs for them.

Supports military kids coping with the stress of having a deployed parent.

Collaborates with schools to ensure they are attuned to the needs of military students.

Educates the public on the impact of the military deployment cycle on families.

## Legion helps kids of deployed parents

Operation: Military Kids is built to help children cope with the difficulty of having a deployed parent. The American Legion is a core partner in this USDA/Army Youth Development Project. Coordinator Darrin Allen calls the partnership "a tremendous boost to our ongoing efforts. With well-established and successful children and youth programs across America, The American Legion will be instrumental in delivering support to military youth at the community level."

The American Legion, in cooperation with state and county cooperative extension services, will seek to reach out to military youth before, during and after deployment of a parent.

**Learn more**

[www.legion.org](http://www.legion.org)



Much remains to be learned about deep-brain stimulation. An ongoing study conducted by VA and the National Institutes of Health is comparing drug therapy with deep-brain stimulation for more than 300 patients.

**The Role of Toxins.** Much of VA's research on Parkinson's takes place at special centers in Houston, Philadelphia, Portland, Ore., Richmond, Va., San Francisco and West Los Angeles.

- In Portland, a team led by Dr. Steven Johnson is closely studying how chemicals that damage the brain affect the neurons that make dopamine.

- Dr. Jeff Bronstein and colleagues in Los Angeles are investigating whether exposure to pesticides may interact with genetic susceptibility to cause Parkinson's disease.

- Researchers in Richmond are exploring the use of adult stem cells to treat the disease. Transplanted into the brain, the cells may transform into dopamine-producing neurons.

Through this and other research, VA hopes to better understand Parkinson's, identify new and improved treatments, and improve the quality of life for all with this disabling neurological disease.

*Dr. Joel Kupersmith is chief research and development officer for the Veterans Health Administration.*

*This article is designed to provide general information. It is not intended to be, nor is it, medical advice. Readers should consult their personal physicians when they have health problems.*

### **Troop Support Services booklets available**

The American Legion's durable new TS2 pocket booklet connects military personnel with critical services on the home front. The comprehensive guide is available now for Legion posts to distribute among active-duty servicemembers and their families. The TS2 booklets provide information about the Legion's Family Support Network, Temporary Financial Assistance, Reconnect program and Welcome Home services, including many VA and DoD services. To learn more, visit the Legion Web site at [www.legion.org](http://www.legion.org) and click on the TS2 icon.



James V. Carroll

[NATIONAL CONVENTION]

## **Hallowed ground in Honolulu**

Nestled in the crater of an ancient volcano, the National Memorial Cemetery is one of America's most meaningful landscapes. Known locally as the Punchbowl, it is the final resting place of some 41,000 military heroes. The cemetery and Honolulu Memorial occupy 116 acres overlooking Honolulu, site of The American Legion's 87th National Convention.

The term "punchbowl" has ancient religious meaning to the people of Hawaii. Puowaina, roughly translated as "hill of placing human sacrifices," was the site for many royal burials and where offenders of taboos were sacrificed.

Legionnaires who attend the national convention Aug. 19-25 can tour the Punchbowl with fellow Legionnaires as guides. The "Stars and Stripes" tour begins at Pearl Harbor. Information is available by calling (877) 589-5589.

The American Legion walking tour follows the Memorial Walk to the overlook. The Legion and Legion Auxiliary have plaques along the way. Sons of The American Legion will dedicate its own memorial plaque during the convention. The memorial, erected in 1966, honors the sacrifices and achievements of the U.S. Armed Forces during World War II and the Korean War. In 1980, it was enlarged to include the missing of the Vietnam War.

Seven hundred seventy-six casualties from the Dec. 7, 1941, attack on Pearl Harbor were among the first interred there in January 1949. World War II war correspondent Ernie Pyle was buried in the Punchbowl on July 19, 1949, the date the site opened. The remains of Ellison Onizuka, Hawaii's only astronaut, were interred there June 2, 1986. Onizuka was one of seven astronauts killed in the *Challenger* shuttle explosion of January 1986.

[AMERICAN LEGION BASEBALL]

## Wood vs. metal: Bat studies ruled inconclusive

Following a nine-month review, The American Legion's National Baseball Subcommittee recently concluded that no substantial scientific evidence exists to support the claim that wooden baseball bats are safer than bats made of metal or composite materials.

The issue has been examined for years. Statistics compiled from numerous studies by the National Collegiate Athletic Association, the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission and the National Institute for Sports Science and Safety were among several studies considered.

Legionnaires in Florida and Montana brought the issue to national attention. In 2003, an American Legion Baseball pitcher died from a head injury after being hit with a baseball that came off a metal bat. "We

were concerned then, and we are concerned now, for the safety of the game and the safety of the young athletes who participate in it," said Larry Price, chairman of the subcommittee. "With deference to the family of the young man, we have given the matter our fullest attention over the last nine months. We have collected, compiled and distributed for the committee's study a great deal of technical information, scientific analysis and expert opinion. We have heard from both camps, wood and non-wood, and we have found no clear evidence of unreasonable risk of injury or death with the use of non-wood bats."

Nolan Gallagher of Red Lodge, Mont., played three years of Legion Baseball at Laurel, Mont., and his final year as a pitcher and third baseman for the Billings Scarlets. He now pitches for Stanford University and received \$3,000 in scholarship money as recipient of the George W. Rulon American Legion Player of the Year Award for 2004.

STAT	2004 BILLINGS SCARLETS	2005 STANFORD CARDINAL
Innings	98.3	55.1
Strikeouts	126	60
Bases on balls	21	24
Wins	11	2
Losses	3	5
Earned run average	2.29	2.93
Batting average	.340	.264

## Hall of Famers to play before Legion World Series

As a warmup to the American Legion Baseball World Series at Rapid City, S.D.,



Aug. 19-23, some of the greatest players of all time will take the field again. Reggie

Jackson, Vida Blue,

Rollie Fingers and Steve Garvey are among the legends set to play an exhibition game against Rapid City's own Post 22 team. The game will be at 7 p.m.

Aug. 17 at Fitzgerald Stadium, site of the Legion World Series. Information is available online.

[www.baseball.legion.org](http://www.baseball.legion.org)



2004 PLAYER OF THE YEAR  
**NOLAN GALLAGHER**  
PITCHER

### [LEGIONNAIRES IN ACTION]

#### ■ Department of Iowa:

During a three-week period in early 2005, 102 cellular phones were collected and distributed to troops overseas.

#### ■ Ponte Vedra, Fla., Palm Valley Post 233:

American Legion family members raised

\$2,750 to support post member U.S. Army Spc. 3rd Class John Berry and his platoon stationed in Iraq.

Funds were used to purchase platoon members global calling cards and items like tools and toiletries. Funds also were

presented to platoon wives to offset postal costs, meet financial needs and to support social functions.

#### ■ Cadiz, Ky., Post 74:

Last year, the color guard and honor guard contributed 1,506 hours of community service to schools,

churches and community events. Members visited hospitalized veterans, shipped care packages to troops overseas, participated in 37 funerals, and performed ceremonial duties during Memorial Day and Veterans Day observances.



## No post? No problem

When Hurricane Charley blew through Port Charlotte, Fla., a year ago, it wiped out the home of American Legion Post 110, which has approximately 2,700 members.

"Most of us were in our homes or evacuated," said former Post 110 Vice Commander Clyde Prier, chairman of the post's building committee. "Winds were in excess of 170 miles per hour. It was a Category 5 when it came through us. It was horrible. It just looked like a bombed building. That's the best I can describe."

Replacing the 15,600-square-foot post – which had banquet rooms, a galley, meeting rooms and space for the post's Auxiliary unit and Sons of The American Legion squadron – has not been easy. The post was insured but still faces a \$300,000 shortfall. Post 110 has conducted various fund-raisers, and posts throughout the country have stepped up to help. The post continues to seek donations from Legionnaires across the country.

But while Hurricane Charley was able to destroy Post 110's home, it didn't destroy its heart. Through May, the post had achieved 83-percent membership – no small feat considering members were forced to meet at the local Moose Lodge for nearly a year.

"This says a lot to me about the character of our members," said Jerry Meadows, immediate past commander. "We're highly elated that people are willing to pay membership dues to a non-existent post. We've had membership drives using radio and the newspapers, and we've been able to spread the word about our post. We gained 19 new members that way, including six Auxiliary members. We even had one Gulf War veteran and his wife walk two miles in 95-degree heat to get here."

*Legion posts nationwide are urged to submit their success stories on the Web site for possible future publication. [www.legion.org](http://www.legion.org)*

## Criminals among alien fugitives

Approximately 400,000 fugitive immigrants – those from foreign countries who disobeyed orders to leave the United States – led Immigration and Customs Enforcement to deploy 80 agents in 16 cities across America to track them down last winter. Among the fugitives, according to UPI, were approximately 80,000 illegal aliens ordered to leave the country after criminal convictions.



## Committee calls for more boots on the ground

If the House Armed Services Committee has its way, the Army and Marine Corps will grow by 11,000 troops next year. The committee agreed in its version of the 2006 Defense Authorization Bill to add 10,000 to the Army and 1,000 to the Marine Corps. "This legislation continues our leadership in growing our ground combat forces to deal with today's operational demands and realities," said Committee Chairman Duncan Hunter, R-Calif.

The bill, awaiting approval from the Congress and the president, also:

- Earmarks \$49.1 billion in new funding to support the war on terror.
- Authorizes funding for armor-enhanced Humvees, new night-vision equipment, and jamming devices to disarm roadside bombs that have killed or maimed hundreds of coalition forces in Iraq.
- Increases the "death benefit" to \$100,000 and provides a 3.1-percent pay raise for U.S. forces.
- Spurs new shipbuilding-procurement reforms.

■ **Stillwater, N.Y., Post 91:** Between July 2004 and February 2005, 132 care packages were sent to U.S. troops serving in Iraq, Afghanistan and Qatar. The post ships between three and five care packages a week.

■ **Duxbury, Mass., Post 223:** Members collected money and toiletries to support Air National Guard troops and families from Camp Edwards based at Otis Air Force Base, Falmouth, Mass. A post member stationed at Otis, Master

Sgt. Jim Haehnel, was key to bringing the groups together.

■ **Brookville, Pa., Rodgers-Daugherty Post 102:** A new Legion member in a revitalized post, Robert Leech suggested his post visit veterans in three local nursing

homes and assisted-living facilities. The veterans were given U.S. Flags and boxes of candy. After post members shared their service experiences with those in the long-term-care facilities, two residents joined the Legion.



Three-year-old Jayden Rogers of Marrero, La., who survived a life-threatening liver disorder, stamps a note of thanks during the CMN Celebration 2005 in Orlando. *Steve Brooks*

[CHILDREN & YOUTH]

## CMN kids star in Florida celebration

Jacob Tyree, in many ways, is a typical 12-year-old boy. He's upbeat. He likes to tell jokes. Making people laugh is one of his favorite pastimes.

Unlike most kids his age, he must use a wheelchair. Surgery to fight cancer required the removal of the lower portion of his spine and paralyzed him below the waist.

Jacob believes in miracles. The cancer is gone, and he's still alive. It's only possible, he says, because of the Children's Miracle Network.

"People like you still make miracles happen," Tyree told CMN Celebration 2005 attendees in

Orlando, Fla. "I know because I am one of those miracles."

Tyree received treatment at the University of Virginia Children's

Hospital, one of 170 CMN hospitals that treat more than 17 million children each year. Children from all 50 states and Canada

who have received care at CMN hospitals attended the conference to meet with CMN sponsors – including The American Legion family – and share their stories.

"These kids are my heroes," said entertainer Marie Osmond, a co-founder of CMN.

– Steve Brooks

*Since 1999,  
The American  
Legion family has  
raised more than  
\$15 million for CMN.*

[LEGISLATION]

## Bill can stop ACLU from courtroom profiteering

The Public Expression of Religion Act introduced as H.R. 2679 in May by Rep. John Hostettler, R-Ind., would end the practice of awarding taxpayer-funded legal fees in establishment-clause court rulings. The American Legion solidly supports the measure, which would cut exploitation by organizations like the American Civil Liberties Union, which collects taxpayer dollars by suing public entities that allow free expression of religion.

"The 1976 Civil Rights Attorney's Fee Awards Act was much needed legislation, but in recent years, certain groups have abused the congressional intent of this public law in establishment-clause lawsuits against the Boy Scouts of America, the Ten Commandments, and now veterans memorials," Legion National Commander Thomas P. Cadmus said. "It is time to fix it. Exorbitant attorney fees awarded by courts to be paid by American taxpayers has become



Rep. John Hostettler, R-Ind.

the newest 'Sword of Damocles' strategically employed by organizations like the ACLU to coerce settlements by cities, counties, states and large organizations like the Boy Scouts of America and the Department of Defense by suits and threats of lawsuits against any public expression of America's religious history, heritage and values."

The American Legion holds the charters on more than 2,600 Boy Scout units and supports thousands more. The ACLU has recently made a target of Scouts in lawsuits seeking to remove them from public places due to a reference to God in the Scout Oath.

"The Public Expression of Religion Act ... will remove the chilling effect on constitutionally protected free expression of religion in public areas by ending court-ordered attorney fees or damages in establishment-clause cases – but only those cases," Cadmus said. "It merely follows the general American rule that each party bears its own attorney fees in lawsuits and removes the threat of court-ordered attorney fees or damages in establishment-clause claims only."

[BENEFITS]

## TRICARE program offered to Guard and Reserve

You or someone you know may now qualify for TRICARE Reserve Select (TRS) health-care coverage through DoD. National Guard and Reserve members must follow a three-step process to get TRS coverage:

1. Enter into a service agreement.
2. Execute the service agreement.
3. Purchase TRS coverage.

As of May 23, 2005, more than 3,000 Guard and Reserve members entered into agreements. To determine eligibility, visit [www.tricare.osd.mil/reserve/reserveselect/index.cfm](http://www.tricare.osd.mil/reserve/reserveselect/index.cfm) online.





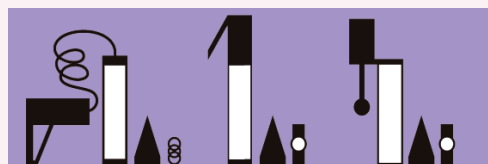
# Now you too can beat **ERECTILE DYSFUNCTION**

Erectile Dysfunction (ED) effects about 30 million men in the USA. The causes are varied and range from psychological reasons to health conditions. But serious as it is, some men still compound the problem by not taking steps to deal with it. The result – often a complete breakdown in their most intimate relationship.

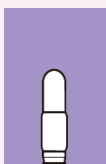
**“My diagnosis of cancer came as a shock to myself and my wife – little did we know that it would also end our intimate experiences... that was until we found the Vacurect™ vacuum therapy system. So simple and easy to use... after several months of use I began to regain my normal function.”**

**– Mobile, AL.**

Vacurect™ was designed by a 47 year old professional engineer who was experiencing ED himself. With the assistance of urologists and sexologists, he decided to tackle the problems of bulkiness and awkward method of use inherent in traditional Vacuum Erection Device (VED) design. The breakthrough result is an extremely compact and easy to use solution... see for yourself!



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**– Clifton, N.J.**

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AFP

[FOREIGN AFFAIRS]

## A new sun rising

*Japan's growing military eyed for bigger role in world security.*

In a thoughtful essay in a recent issue of *The National Interest*, Asia security specialist Alan Dupont highlights changing Japanese attitudes about international security. The author says that Japan's allies in the United States and Australia should welcome Tokyo's willingness to play a greater role in world and regional security spheres. "Japan's alliance obligations mandate the maintenance of a military capable of modern warfighting at home and abroad," Dupont writes, noting that Tokyo has embraced important security responsibilities, including:

- Peacekeeping deployments in Iraq and Afghanistan.
- Tsunami relief in South Asia.
- Collaboration with Washington on missile-defense development.
- Open participation in the so-called "trilateral security dialogue" with Australia and the United States.
- Stout defense spending, ranking Japan third in world military investment.

Japan inhabits a region where nearby China is building a menacing military machine, and North Korea, with its uncertain nuclear assets and growing missile arsenal, is fueling Tokyo's interest in missile defense and its hawkish stance toward Kim Jong-Il.

Says Dupont, "It is time for Japan to move beyond the ideals of the post-World War II peace constitution and participate more fully in building and sustaining regional order and combatting the emerging threats to security."

[PATRIOTISM]

## O say, can you sing all the words?

On Sept. 13, 1814, Francis Scott Key visited the British fleet in Chesapeake Bay to secure the release of Dr. William Beanes, who had been captured after the burning of Washington. The release was secured, but Key was detained aboard ship overnight during the shelling of Fort McHenry, which was defending Baltimore. In the morning, Key was so delighted to see the U.S. Flag still flying over the fort that he began a poem to commemorate the occasion.

First published under the title "Defense of Fort M'Henry," the poem soon attained wide popularity as sung to the tune "To Anacreon in Heaven."

"The Star-Spangled Banner" was officially made the national anthem by Congress in 1931, although it already had been adopted as such by the Army and the Navy. As its singing became the ceremonial opening of public events and gatherings, the song was held to just its first verse. Following are all four verses:



O say, can you see, by the dawn's early light,  
What so proudly we hail'd at the twilight's last gleaming?  
Whose broad stripes and bright stars, thro' the perilous fight,  
O'er the ramparts we watch'd, were so gallantly streaming?

And the rockets' red glare, the bombs bursting in air,  
Gave proof thro' the night that our flag was still there.

O say, does that star-spangled banner yet wave  
O'er the land of the free and the home of the brave?

On the shore dimly seen thro' the mists of the deep,  
Where the foe's haughty host in dread silence reposes,  
What is that which the breeze, o'er the towering steep,  
As it fitfully blows, half conceals, half discloses?

Now it catches the gleam of the morning's first beam,  
In full glory reflected, now shines on the stream:

'Tis the star-spangled banner: O, long may it wave  
O'er the land of the free and the home of the brave!

And where is that band who so vauntingly swore  
That the havoc of war and the battle's confusion,  
A home and a country should leave us no more?  
Their blood has wash'd out their foul footsteps' pollution.

No refuge could save the hireling and slave  
From the terror of flight or the gloom of the grave:  
And the star-spangled banner in triumph doth wave  
O'er the land of the free and the home of the brave.

O thus be it ever when free-men shall stand  
Between their lov'd home and the war's desolation;  
Blest with vict'ry and peace, may the heav'n-rescued land  
Praise the Pow'r that hath made and preserv'd us a nation!

Then conquer we must, when our cause it is just,

And this be our motto: "In God is our trust!"  
And the star-spangled banner in triumph shall wave  
O'er the land of the free and the home of the brave!

Sources: [www.infoplease.com](http://www.infoplease.com), University of Oklahoma Law Center



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[BY THE NUMBERS]

## Allah carte menu



**\$2.19:** Amount Miami-Dade Corrections Department pays a day to feed one prisoner



**\$8.25:** Amount the Pentagon spends per day to feed one U.S. troop guarding terrorism suspects at Guantanamo Bay



**\$12.68:** Amount the Pentagon spends per day, per terrorism suspect, to serve detainees a Muslim-approved menu

— The Miami Herald

[TROOP SUPPORT]

## Golf gear for returning troops

The American Legion and Bridgestone Golf, Inc., have teamed up to provide free golf equipment to U.S. servicemembers returning from the Middle East and Afghanistan. "The Long Drive Home" program will give Bridgestone clubs, golf balls and other merchandise to randomly chosen servicemembers, based on each week's tee shots by PGA Tour long-ball hitter and Bridgestone Team member Scott Hend, at left.

The American Legion National Headquarters will distribute the items via local posts. The program is set to run through the 2005 PGA Tour season.

[www.bridgestonegolf.com](http://www.bridgestonegolf.com)



Getty

[Q&A]

## Geriatric chief says VA has prepared well

**The American Legion Magazine:** In 1984, VA predicted an increase of over 400 percent in veteran nursing home demand by 2000 and over 600 percent by 2010. How accurate were those predictions?

**Dr. James Burris:** The 1984 projections could not anticipate the medical and technological innovations of the past two decades. VA has expanded the spectrum of non-institutional services it supports to provide more care in home- and community-based settings and has increased capacity of both institutional and non-institutional programs. For veterans enrolled in the VA health-care system, VA would provide nursing-home care for an average daily census of 21,189 veterans in the three nursing-home programs supported by VA – VA nursing home care units, contract community homes and state veterans homes – under the policy delineated in the fiscal 2006 VA budget proposal. Current models project that census would grow to approximately 22,400 veterans in fiscal 2010, under the proposed policy.

**Q:** How important is it for veterans to have unique long-term care services?

**A:** Veterans share the common experience of military service and, often, of combat. They can feel quite isolated among the predominantly female, non-combatant population of most community nursing homes and day-care facilities. Long-term care services unique to veterans can tailor programs

to meet veterans' needs more effectively than private-sector providers.

**Q:** Do you see a greater reliance on contracted care in the future?

**A:** Many non-institutional services are provided entirely through contracts currently – and will grow in the future to meet increased demand. Contracting for care increases VA's flexibility, obviates the need for construction, allows VA to select providers of quality care and may reduce total costs. It does reduce VA's direct control over the quality provided and can only be implemented when qualified providers willing to contract with VA exist in the community.

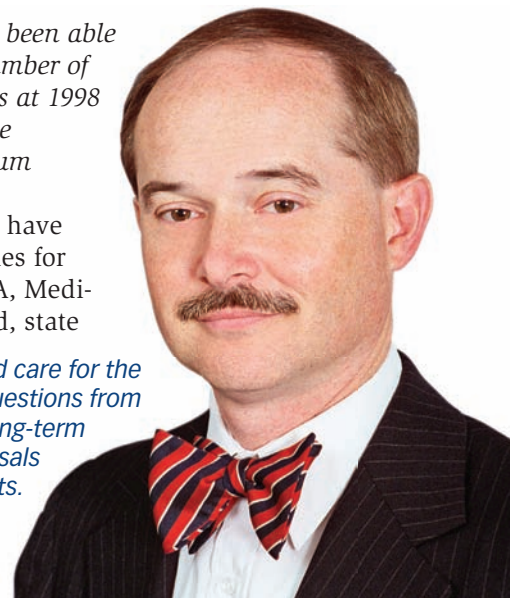
**Q:** How well prepared is VA for continued increases in long-term care demand?

**A:** VA is well prepared to meet its share.

**Q:** Why hasn't VA been able to maintain its number of nursing-home beds at 1998 levels, as set by the Veterans Millennium Health Care Act?

**A:** Many veterans have multiple eligibilities for care, including VA, Medicare and Medicaid, state

**Dr. James Burris** is chief consultant for geriatrics and extended care for the Veterans Health Administration. He recently responded to questions from The American Legion Magazine on the current and future state of long-term VA health care in America, in light of federal budget proposals to restrict eligibility and freeze construction grants.





[ACTIVE DUTY]

## 'Star Wars' in Iraq

U.S. troops in Iraq were treated to a premiere showing of the sci-fi blockbuster "Revenge of the Sith" the same week Americans rushed to theaters for the sixth and final chapter of the "Star Wars" epic.

Thanks to Lucasfilm and 20th Century Fox, the film played on screens at a theater in Balad, Iraq, to the delight of more than 1,000 U.S. troops.

According to *Stars and Stripes*, the creators and distributors of "Episode III" also agreed to provide video copies so U.S. service-members deployed elsewhere in Iraq and Afghanistan could catch the film too.



[LEGISLATION]

## Mental illness studies spur bill for better care

The *New England Journal of Medicine* recently reported that up to 26 percent of veterans returning from Afghanistan and Iraq and treated at VA hospitals have been diagnosed with mental illness. A Government Accountability Office study later questioned the capacity of DoD and VA to care for an influx of mental-health-care demand – now and in the future.

The reports led U.S. Rep. Lane Evans, D-Ill., to introduce the Comprehensive Assistance for Veterans Exposed to Traumatic Stressors Act to "require VA and DoD to start preparing even before future battles are waged, by identifying the types of individuals who are at risk of developing post-deployment mental health conditions," Evans said. "We must ensure that services are ready."

veterans homes and private or employer-provided insurance. They may choose to use another eligibility to seek care that is closer to their home, community and family.

**Q:** What effect would the proposed freezing of state veterans home grants have in fiscal 2006, if approved?

**A:** The proposed one-year moratorium on state home construction grants should have little or no effect on access to care or the use of contracted nursing-home care. More than 1,600 state-home beds funded by previously awarded grants not affected by the moratorium are currently under construction.

**Q:** Why is the resident cost per day so much higher at VA than it is at state veterans homes and through contractors?

**A:** VA nursing homes provide more restorative and rehabilitative care to more complex patients than do either state veterans homes or contract community nursing homes. VA homes are staffed by larger numbers of more highly trained personnel.

**Q:** If VA restricts per-diem payments to only those residents in Priority Groups 1-4, won't the relationship between states and VA be jeopardized?

**A:** This proposal has challenged the relationship between VA and the state homes, but we continue to work closely together.

**Q:** What is your current long-term demand projection for VA care, say 20 years out?

**A:** We project that demand will rise gradually through approximately 2012 and decline slowly thereafter. While population shifts and unpredictable advances in medicine and technology make long-range planning inherently imprecise, we anticipate demand for long-term care will be declining toward current levels 20 years from now, making it important that VA not overbuild "bricks-and-mortar" capacity in the interim.

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## How to Submit a Reunion

The American Legion Magazine publishes reunion notices for veterans. Send notices to *The American Legion Magazine*, Attn: Reunions, P.O. Box 1055, Indianapolis, IN 46206, fax (317) 630-1280 or e-mail [reunions@legion.org](mailto:reunions@legion.org).

Include the branch of service and complete name of the group, no abbreviations, with your request. The listing also should include the reunion dates and city, along with a contact name, telephone number and e-mail address. Listings are published free of charge.

Due to the large number of reunions, *The American Legion Magazine* will publish a group's listing only once a year. Notices should be sent at least six months prior to the reunion to ensure timely publication.

## Other Notices

"In Search Of" is a means of getting in touch with people from your unit to plan a reunion. We do not publish listings that seek people for interviews, research purposes, military photos or help in filing a VA claim. Listings must include the name of the unit from which you seek people, the time period and the location, as well as a contact name,

telephone number and e-mail address. Send notices to *The American Legion Magazine*, Attn: "In Search Of," P.O. Box 1055, Indianapolis, IN 46206, fax (317) 630-1280 or e-mail [reunions@legion.org](mailto:reunions@legion.org).

The magazine will not publish the names of individuals, only the name of the unit from which you seek people. Listings are published free of charge.

Life Membership notices are published for Legionnaires who have been awarded life memberships by their posts. This does not include a member's own Paid-Up-For-Life membership. Notices must be submitted on official forms, which may be obtained by sending a self-addressed stamped envelope to *The American Legion Magazine*, Attn: Life Memberships, P.O. Box 1055, Indianapolis, IN 46206.

"Comrades in Distress" listings must be approved by the Legion's Veterans Affairs & Rehabilitation division. If you are seeking to verify an injury received during service, contact your Legion department service officer for information on how to publish a notice.

To respond to a "Comrades in Distress" listing, send a letter to *The American Legion Magazine*, Attn: Comrades in Distress, P.O. Box 1055, Indianapolis, IN 46206. Include the listing's CID number in your response.

"Taps" notices are published only for Legionnaires who served as department commanders or national officers.

## AIR FORCE/ARMY AIR CORPS

**3rd Radio Sqdn Mobile**, Fort Meade, MD, 10/13-15, David Grey, (603) 826-2552, [dgrey1@verizon.net](mailto:dgrey1@verizon.net); **6th Bomb Wing (Walker AFB, 1940-1966)**, Roswell, NM, 9/23-24, Bob Pike, (479) 452-7191; **11th Cbt Def Sqdn (Altus AFB)**, Las Vegas, 9/9-11, Richard Phelen, [wfo426@msn.com](mailto:wfo426@msn.com); **12th TCS (Rhein Main AFB, Germany, 1950-1957)**, Pigeon Forge, TN, 9/26-29, Paul Baldwin, (254) 294-2267, [dbaldwin@hillsboro.net](mailto:dbaldwin@hillsboro.net); **23rd Depot Repair Sqdn 2nd Air Depot Grp**, Colorado Springs, CO, 9/24-26, James Lance, (785) 467-8600; **29th Bomb Grp 314th Wing 20th AF**, New Orleans, 10/20-23, Larry Nass, (480) 838-5957, [b29group2005reunion@yahoo.com](mailto:b29group2005reunion@yahoo.com); **58th Bomb Wing B-29s (India-China-Tinian, WWII)**, St. Louis, 9/20-25, Roger Sandstedt, (636) 825-2353, [r.l.sandstedt@att.net](mailto:r.l.sandstedt@att.net); **329th FIS ADC (George AFB, Victorville, CA)**, Reno, NV, 10/18-20, Joe Hitch, (775) 828-7267, [joe.hitch@sbcglobal.net](mailto:joe.hitch@sbcglobal.net)

**366th Ftr Assn (WWII-2005)**, Seattle, 8/31-9/3, Steve Pennington, [gunfighter11@juno.com](mailto:gunfighter11@juno.com); **384th Aerial Refueling Sqdn**, Moncks Corner, SC, 10/13-16, Ken Godstrey, (301) 464-1150, [kengodstrey@comcast.net](mailto:kengodstrey@comcast.net); **474th Ftr Grp Assn (WWII)**, Salt Lake City, 9/14-18, Lloyd Wenzel, (561) 747-2380, [p38lloyd@bellsouth.net](mailto:p38lloyd@bellsouth.net); **509th Bomb Wing (Walker AFB, 1953-1958)**, Roswell, NM, 10/3-6, James Wright, (541) 726-5288, [jcwright1956@aol.com](mailto:jcwright1956@aol.com); **600th Photo Sqdn & 601st Photo Flts**, San Diego, 9/1-5, Ron Marshall, (505) 254-7984; **6927th RSM (Onna Pt, Okinawa)**, McLean, VA, 10/20-24, Jerry Stein, (561) 330-7471, [fljerry@bellsouth.net](mailto:fljerry@bellsouth.net); **AC-119 Gunship Assn**, Fort Walton Beach, FL, 9/30-10/2, Jim Alvis, (317) 846-4130, [jralvis@indyr.com](mailto:jralvis@indyr.com); **Air Commandos (WWII)**, Wright-Patterson AFB, OH, 9/8-11, Norm Trzynka, (260) 749-5248, [nltrzynka@msn.com](mailto:nltrzynka@msn.com); **Air Rescue Assn & Pedro Rescue Heli Assn**, Colorado Springs, CO, 9/7-11, Ed Cartwright, (901) 876-6624, [e.l.cartwright@att.net](mailto:e.l.cartwright@att.net); **Pilot Tng Class 55-S**, Odessa, TX, 9/29-10/2, Gordon Beck, (940) 696-0054, [gnbeck@earthlink.net](mailto:gnbeck@earthlink.net)

## ARMY

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Barker, (218) 587-4215, [djbarker@uslink.net](mailto:djbarker@uslink.net); **25th Inf Div Assn**, Pittsburgh, 9/20-24, Glenda Ellis, (215) 248-2572, [tropicltn@aol.com](mailto:tropicltn@aol.com); **34th Inf Div**, Des Moines, IA, 9/8-11, Don Prock, (515) 265-3546, [jlg34@mcleodusa.net](mailto:jlg34@mcleodusa.net); **35th Inf Div Assn**, Springfield, MO, 10/19-22, Bob Dalton, (785) 267-3295; **73rd AAA AW Bn (SP)**, Gettysburg, PA, 9/21-25, Raymond Webb, (540) 775-0452; **79th Inf Div 314th Inf**, Columbus, OH, 9/22-25, Jesse Green, (937) 584-5469, [jessekategreen@yahoo.com](mailto:jessekategreen@yahoo.com); **90th Div Assn "Tough Ombres"**, Corpus Christi, TX, 9/29-10/2, James Reid, (630) 789-0204, [reids@90thdivisionassociation.org](mailto:reids@90thdivisionassociation.org); **91st AAA AW Bn (M) All Btrys (Germany)**, Branson, MO, 10/11-12, Richard Johnson, (563) 246-2206; **92nd Armd FA Bn "Red Devil" Bn**, New Orleans, 10/2-4, Guy McMenemy, (281) 469-2819, [bravecannons@sbcglobal.net](mailto:bravecannons@sbcglobal.net)

**106th Ord Co HM (Korea, 1950-1955)**, Branson, MO, 11/4-6, Paul Sloan, (417) 742-2410, [rjweeks@hotmail.com](mailto:rjweeks@hotmail.com); **112th Inf Rgt Assn**, Branson, MO, 9/27-30, John Mosley, (562) 947-1727, [mosleyjohn@charter.net](mailto:mosleyjohn@charter.net); **137th Eng Co LE (Fort Riley, KS, 1967)**, Junction City, KS, 7/1-4, 2006, Gary Farris, (909) 799-1785, [gfarris2@msn.com](mailto:gfarris2@msn.com); **158th RCT "Bushmasters" (WWII)**, Tempe, AZ, 9/18-21, Jim Stallings, (602) 266-4652, [jstall4545@aol.com](mailto:jstall4545@aol.com); **520th MP Co Svc SHAPE (1951-1968)**, Huntsville, AL, 10/14-16, David Brubaker, (570) 265-9647, [dw069@yahoo.com](mailto:dw069@yahoo.com); **553rd Heavy Ponton Eng Bn**, Green Bay, WI, 9/9-10, Allie O'Connell, (920) 438-7886; **558th FA Bn Patton's 3rd Army (WWII)**, Bob Haas, (360) 491-6898, [merciebob@msn.com](mailto:merciebob@msn.com); **625th Eng Light Equip Co**, Effingham, IL, 9/24-25, Duane Majors, (618) 644-5552

**709th Tank Bn**, Allentown, PA, 9/15-18, Bruce Keeler, 4355 Liberty Road, Coopersburg, PA 18036, [bdkeeler@earthlink.net](mailto:bdkeeler@earthlink.net); **836th EAB**, Knoxville, TN, 9/9-11, Robert Hessenberger, (865) 577-0208; **841st Eng Avn Bn (WWII & Korea)**, Myrtle Beach, SC, 10/19-23, Jacky Murphy, (239) 997-9940; **C Co 89th Tank Bn (Korea, 1950-1953)**, Inver Grove Heights, MN, 9/29-10/3, Richard Vesely, (218) 243-2005, [vesfam@hotmail.com](mailto:vesfam@hotmail.com); **F Co 279th Inf Div 45th Div**, Crossville, TN, 9/16-18, John Hill, (252) 522-1310; **Sig Serv & ASA Okinawa Personnel (1945-1970)**, Branson, MO, 9/15-18, Paul Watson, (978) 465-7473, [w562236@aol.com](mailto:w562236@aol.com)

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9/6-10, Lowell Clark, (910) 620-3692

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**251st Eng Cbt Bn 9th Army (Europe, 1943-1946)**, Mark Caldwell, 17543 Garfield G-2, Redford, MI 48240  
**276th Coast Arty (WWII)**, John Holly, (651) 698-8382  
**320th Air Refueling Sqdn (March AFB, CA, 1952-1953)**, Clint Royce, (801) 546-2771, clintroyce1@peoplepc.com  
**414th CA Co (Fort Gordon, GA, 1961-1962)**, Dixon Morgan, (856) 931-2284, dxnmrgn@aol.com  
**537th Personnel Serv Co (Bien Hoa, Vietnam, 1968)**, Bill Churchill, (563) 391-0334, churchw@mchsi.com  
**545th MP Co 1st Cav Div (1942-2005)**, Sam Reinert, (765) 993-8660, samreinert@verizon.net  
**558th FA Bn Patton's 3rd Army (WWII)**, Bob Haas, (360) 491-6898, merciebob@msn.com  
**575th GM Serv Co (Fort Lee, VA, 1958-1960)**, Dixon Morgan, (856) 931-2284, dxnmrgn@aol.com  
**585th AF Band (Carswell AFB, Fort**

**Worth, TX, 1950-1953)**, Ken Frantz, (262) 782-9099  
**793rd MP Police Bn (Germany, 1942-2005)**, Dick Burch, gabgm@bellsouth.net  
**820th Opn Sqdn (Plattsburgh AFB, NY, 1956-1958)**, Herbert Andrew, (410) 822-4794  
**1506th Mil Air Trans Serv (Clark AB, Philippines, 1964-1965)**, James White, (509) 633-1390  
**7964th Army Unit Com 2 Base Sect (La Rochelle, France, 1955-1956)**, Roy Henke, (618) 939-6230  
**Atakapa ATF 149, Ron Buice**, (770) 945-3611, rpbuice@bellsouth.net  
**Basic Tng (Fort Dix, NJ, June 1959)**, Gerard Brauer, (631) 376-1887  
**Canal Zone, Panama Motor Pool (Fort Clayton, 1959-1961)**, Gerard Brauer, (631) 376-1887  
**CG Yard Sickbay (Curtis Bay, MD, 1943-1944)**, Roger Williams, (516) 922-6636  
**Co 690 (NTC Farragut, ID, 1944)**, Don Wunderlich, (701) 626-7628  
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**First Fit Det MACV-SOG (Nha Trang, Vietnam, 1962-1972)**, Frank White, (509) 464-2774, whitefc1@comcast.net  
**Fort Lee, VA, "Travelers" Baseball Team (1959-1960)**, Dixon Morgan, (856) 931-2284, dxnmrgn@aol.com  
**HQ Army Trans Terminal Unit (Sondrestrom AB, Greenland, 1960-1961)**, Dixon Morgan, (856) 931-2284, dxnmrgn@aol.com  
**Mattaponi AO 41 (San Francisco, 1961-1963)**, James Brickhart, (716) 366-1485  
**MCBI A Co (Vietnam, 1968-1969)**, Stoney Walker, (828) 324-7843, skydust@conninc.com  
**Naval Stn Subic Bay, Philippines, YO/YW/YTM/YTB (Aug 1972-Apr 1974)**, Jerry O'Connor, (360) 275-3729  
**Society of 18th Eng Bde (All Units, Eras)**, Jennifer Streszoff, (215) 672-3345, engr18thbde@yahoo.com  
**Traverse County LST 1160 (1958-1962)**, Roy Kendrick, (423) 323-5688  
**Turner Joy DD 951 Fox Div (1970-1972)**, Tom Sheppard, (209) 863-8736, sheptj@aol.com

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**Jerry P. Bove, Dept. of Nebraska.** Dept. Cmdr. 2001-2002 and Nat'l Distinguished Guests Cmte. Vice Chmn. 2002-2005.  
**Robert G. Kreider, Dept. of Tennessee.** Nat'l Foreign Relations Cncl. Vice Chmn. 1998-2000 and 2001-2002, Dept. Cmdr. 2000-2001, Nat'l Americanism Cncl. Vice Chmn. 2002-2004 and Nat'l Cemetery Cmte. Memb. 2004-2005.  
**Andres Rosario-Bordonada, Dept. of Puerto Rico.** Dept. Cmdr. 1989-1991, Alt. Nat'l Exec. Cmte. Memb. 1993-1995, Nat'l Foreign Relations Cmsn. Nat'l Cmdr.'s Rep. 1993-1995, Nat'l Internal Affairs Liaison Cmsn. Memb. 1995-1996, Nat'l Exec. Cmte. Memb. 1995-1999, Nat'l Foreign Relations Liaison Cmsn. Memb. 1996-1998, Nat'l Veterans Affairs & Rehab. Liaison Cmte. Memb. 1998-1999, Nat'l Cemetery Cmte. Nat'l Cmdr.'s Rep. 2001-2005.

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The man answered, "I'd like that chocolate-covered cream-filled doughnut, that jelly-filled doughnut and that cheese danish." Then, with a sigh, he added, "But I'll take an oat-bran muffin."

**"I NEVER** forget a face, but in your case I'll be glad to make an exception."

— Groucho Marx

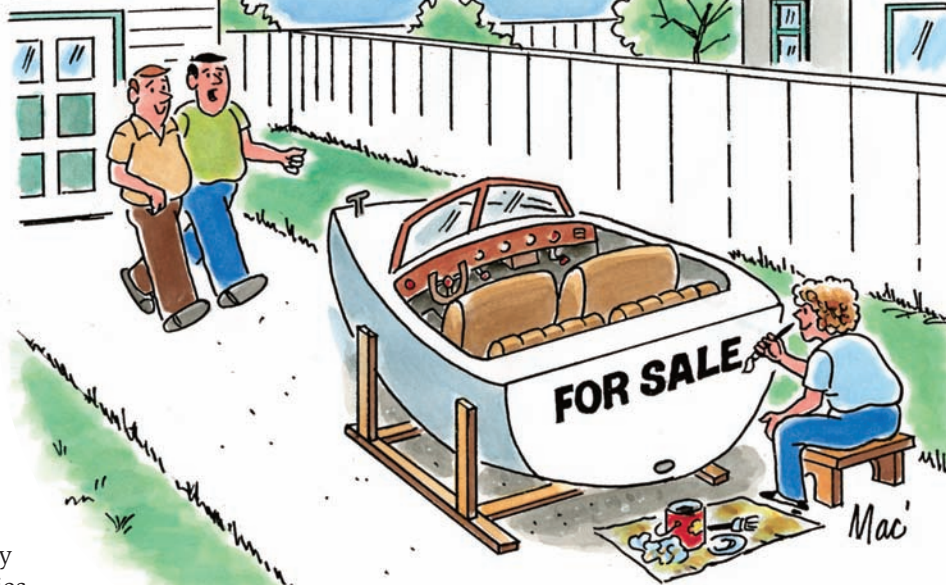
**A BEGINNER** scrubbed his tee shot into the woods, hit into a few trees, then proceeded to hit across the fairway into another woods. Finally, after banging away several more times, he proceeded to hit into a sand trap. All the while, he'd noticed that the club professional had been watching.

"What club should I use now?" he asked the pro.

"I don't know," the pro replied. "What game are you playing?"



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"Helen said I could only buy the boat if I let her name it."



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